

SHIFTING GEARS

THE CHANGING MEANING OF WORK IN MASSACHUSETTS, 1920-1980

GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

INTERVIEWEE: Mr. & Mrs. JQ

INTERVIEWER: Martha Norkunas

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TRANSCRIBER: Kathleen A. Jenkins

TAPE ONE, SIDE A

MN: Today is February 27, 1989 and I'm here with Mrs. & Mr. JQ on Wright Street in Gardner. You're both Polish, is that so?

Mrs. JQ: Yes.

Mr. JQ: Both are, yes. I was born in Poland.

MN: You were born in Poland?

Mr. JQ: Poland, yes. I (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: But he's a citizen.

Mr. JQ: I was only three years old when I came to this country.

MN: Do you know why your parents brought you here or why they came here?

Mr. JQ: Well.

Mrs. JQ: Because they were coming to live here.

Mr. JQ: To live here, yeah. They got (...unintelligible) and everything, you know, so. We left our grandmother there too and grandfather and we came here.

MN: Did they come from a farm in Poland?

Mr. JQ: No, we lived in Warsaw.

Mrs. JQ: They came from Warsaw.

Mr. JQ: Come from Warsaw.

Mrs. JQ: Him and his sister. There's two of them that, that came from Poland and then he had another brother and sister, they were born here.

Mr. JQ: Yuh.

MN: And what was their occupation in Warsaw?

Mrs. JQ: What did your father do in Warsaw?

Mr. JQ: Oh, he was a, in Warsaw he was a chair maker.

MN: He was!

Mrs. JQ: Chair maker.

Mr. JQ: Furn, furniture that what he was.

Mrs. JQ: In Warsaw?

Mr. JQ: That's what he was here.

MN: But he was a chair maker in Poland too?

Mr. JQ: Yuh, yeah, that's what he done here at Conant-Ball.

Mrs. JQ: I thought he worked on, on steel, you said?

Mr. JQ: Oh no, no, no. He was a furn, he worked on chairs and tables and things like that and then when he came here he got a job down Conant and Ball. He stayed there for the rest of his life there.

MN: At Conant-Ball? And what did he do at Conant-Ball, exactly?

Mr. JQ: Well, he was a, like a sample maker. He made the first chairs and, that's what I used to do in Heywoods too. I used to do the upholstery. I used to be the sample maker. I used to teach the guys how to do it, afterwards.

MN: So when he came was there a Polish section of Gardner at that time?

Mr. JQ: Yes, there was, yes, there was, yes.

Mrs. JQ: This was the Polish section, where we're living.

Mr. JQ: Polish church is right here.

Mrs. JQ: The Polish church is right behind the house. The Polish club is on Pleasant Street and there was all the grocery stores here (Mr. JQ interrupting).

MR. JQ: All Polish.

Mrs. JQ: They were run by Polish people and know there's no more stores so they made apartments out of those stores. There's only one uh, uh Teddy's, it's uh, he's Polish, he's still running it. It's like a uh, uh convenience store, you know.

Mr. JQ: Show them the pictures there on that, when I came from Poland there.

Mrs. JQ: Oh, there's uh.

MN: Maybe afterwards I could look at those.

Mrs. JQ: No, there just his, his mother and father, his uh, it's nothing uh, it's just the family.

Mr. JQ: And my sister was there too, she.

MN: And what about your family?

Mrs. JQ: Well, my mother and father they, well, of course, they came from Poland too, but we were all born here. I don't know what they did there. I never, well, my mother used to do like housework. You know, that's what uh all the girls did there. But I, I never questioned about my father.

Mr. JQ: My father in Polish is Stolaz, that's a furniture maker, Stolaz.

MN: I wonder if his father was also a chair maker.

Mr. JQ: Oh, I don't know what his father was.

Mrs. JQ: You know, we didn't even see our grandparents. We just had the pictures, but we never knew them.

MN: To this day?

Mr. JQ: Well, we left our grandmother to live there.

Mrs. JQ: They left em, yeah. Like, my, my mother's brother came here first and then uh he sent her some money to come here, and when she got a job she had to pay him back. But she always worked in factories like there was uh Gerbles, she used to sand.

MN: Your mother did?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. And then, uh, from there she uh went to a Commonwealth and they used to make those cane seats. She used to uh.

Mr. JQ: (.....unintelligible) full retirement, yeah.

Mrs. JQ: Uh, make those uh, you know, one woman was on one side and the other, and that's where she worked until she retired.

MN: I'm sorry. What did she do there?

Mrs. JQ: Uh, cane, making cane. You know, the uh, it was like a machine about this big, but one woman would have to be on one side and the other one on here, and one would have a long needle, she'd push it in and the woman would have to put something on the thing when she'd push it through, and you know, they'd cover the holes in it. It was interesting. We used to, when we were kids we used to go and watch them there.

MN: And that would be to make the cane seats or just the cane?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. Just, just the cane and then they uh, you know, as they'd do it they'd roll it and roll it and it would come in big rolls.

MN: So that was flexing it together?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

Mr. JQ: They'd call it reed work too, you know.

Mrs. JQ: No, what my mother did, that uh cane.

Mr. JQ: Oh, the cane, yeah.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, and then they would come in big rolls and then they'd break, send it to factories and then they'd cut em and make the seats of the chairs or the backs.

MN: So they were kind of weaving it?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

MN: Did she ever do any reed work at home?

Mrs. JQ: No.

MN: Because I know at some point they made many.

Mr. JQ: This is the chair they gave me when I retired.

MN: Oh! What kind of chair is it?

Mr. JQ: That's a captain's chair.

MN: A captain's chair. It says presented to Mr. JQ in grateful recognition of 52 years of faithful and loyal service by Heywood-Wakefield Company, Gardner, Massachusetts.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, I was uh (Mrs. JQ interrupting) they had a little party for me too, you know.

Mrs. JQ: I should have got one too. I should have got one. I worked there long enough, but they closed. So I got cheated (laughs).

Mr. JQ: Yeah, I just got out in time to, so I'd get one of these. I might have been the last one, I don't know. They cost \$150 then.

MN: Really?

Mr. JQ: Yeah. That's all oak.

MN: That's a beautiful chair.

Mrs. JQ: Emm.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: Do you ever sit in it?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah.

MN: Sometimes I think people just have them oh for decoration.

Mr. JQ: It's a heavy chair, too. Very heavy.

MN: That's nice feeling. Do the other companies give people something when they retire? Do you know?

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah they do.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, they do. Like uh I think Collier-Keyworth, they give em gold watches or something. They get better presents than we do.

Mr. JQ: Simplex you get what I want.

Mrs. JQ: Simplex, Simplex is the best place. The people are retired now, they uh every Christmas they get a big basket, I think its about \$100 worth.

Mr. JQ: Right now it's the worst place to work.

Mrs. JQ: They said there's everything from soup to nuts. There's even the turkey and a ham, and the bottle, and then at Christmas they take them to a party and they come after them with a bus and bring em there, then bring em home. And every birthday they get \$5, and we just get that lousy pension and they wanted to take it away. Like, they would say if it wasn't for that Joe Berganski we probably wouldn't get nothing, cause we loss six months, well, they took it away for six months, but we got three months back, but I don't think we'll ever get the other three months, but uh.

MN: But it comes every month.

Mrs. JQ: Every month. And what little you get, you know, it at least pays for your food cost and blue shield. It takes uh, well, they have to add some, but uh at least it's a help.

MN: And what were you saying, Simplex is the worst place to work now?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, because anybody that quits they put on the work on somebody else.

Mrs. JQ: Well, you know, there's no union there.

Mr. JQ: There's no union there, see.

Mrs. JQ: So they can't fight.

Mr. JQ: So a lot of them are just getting out, they're dumb about that uh.

Mrs. JQ: Well, it's like that everywhere, when some.

Mr. JQ: Uh Some, I know some people that work there. They were telling me that.

Mrs. JQ: Well, that's just like my grandson, he went to school and he was an accountant. So he got a job there and boy when he first got in there, he got his own office and oh, it was nice, and it seemed after awhile he says, "Boy,

you have to do this, you have to do that". And he didn't have much time, so he used to work overtime to uh get it down, so he quit. He's uh at the Cape now.

MN: Were you at Heywood-Wakefield before the union came in?

Mr. JQ: I worked.

MN: Were you, what year did you start at Heywoods?

Mr. JQ: Oh, I don't know, it must have been in the early '30s somewhere there, you know.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but you were there before the union got there.

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, I was there before the union, yes.

Mrs. JQ: Yuh, yeah. Well, I worked there for a long time, even after the union was in. But I didn't want to join it, I said, "Why should I pay uh for the union. I haven't got much seniority, if they're going to lay off, they're going to lay me off anyway, whether I belong or not." Because that's the way it went, you know, according to seniority. But then, you know, the different ones would ask, "And, do you belong to the union?", I hated to say (laughs) no. So a lot of times I'd lie and I'd say "Yes". But then it was getting so strict that I says, well, to him, I says, "I think I'd better join you, because I'll be in trouble." So I finally joined it, but uh you know, with the union, it goes according to seniority and then when I first got in there I said, why should I be paying, but after I did, I was glad, because, you know, the, sometimes the bosses have favoritism, and they'd give em the better job and they, if there's a union you go to the union and they have to go according to seniority.

Mr. JQ: Then they made me a foreman therefore, and I uh, and, and I wasn't bound to belong to the union afterwards anymore. But I done it for about six months, I didn't like it. There was a lot of those fellas that were coming during the war. They were all veterans there, they would have 42 uh, uh men

that I have to break in in upholstery, you know. In car seat upholstery. And there was a lot of work, and I was a pack maker too, so they tried to move my other (....unintelligible) from the experimental room here and they gave me too much in so I quit the foremanship. The heck with that, it's too much.

MN: And when you went back to the floor were you back in the union?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, I was back in the union afterwards, yeah.

MN: Maybe I should start chronologically, so I don't lose track. Maybe I uh ask him and then I ask you.

Mrs. JQ: Ask him.

MN: Uh after your family came to Gardner, do you remember, well, did your father work? You said he worked in uh, uh.

Mrs. JQ: Conant-Ball.

MN: Conant-Ball.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, that's, that's the only place he went to work, Conant-Ball.

He got a job just as soon as he came. A fella got him, by the name of Forski, he got him the job, that he asked the Foreman and my father got the job and he stayed there ever since. Right in the corner there of uh, uh Pine Street and.

Mrs. JQ: You know where Conant-Ball is.

Mr. JQ: Pine Street and (Mrs. JQ interrupting), where Pine Street, right on the corner.

Mrs. JQ: She knows where it is, she knows where it is.

Mr. JQ: Second floor. He worked there for the rest of his life.

MN: Did he like it?

Mr. JQ: Till he died. He died when he was 63 from a shock.

MN: Oh, that's early.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: Did he like it?

Mr. JQ: Well, yeah, that's, that's the only job you knew and they liked him there, too, you know. He got high blood pressure, I guess, or something, he got a shock and that was it.

MN: And did your mother ever work in a factory.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, she worked in Heywoods there for, for awhile, and uh, what the heck else did she work there. I guess that's the only place.

Mrs. JQ: That's the only place and then she used to work in the restaurant, washing dishes.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, yeah, for awhile there, for awhile there.

MN: And you, you were four kids?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

Mr. JQ: Four, yeah. We're still all alive yet.

Mrs. JQ: No, you're not. Your sister's dead.

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, yeah, my, my oldest sister, that's right. She died three or four years back, I guess.

Mrs. JQ: He's the oldest of them.

MN: Oh, you're the oldest?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

Mr. JQ: I'm the oldest. Uh, she, I was older than her by two years.

MN: Did you have any special responsibilities because you were the oldest? I mean, did they want you to take care of the other kids or go to work early?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

Mr. JQ: Well, I was working supporting the whole family after. I just went through the eighth grade, that's it. And I, all of them went through uh, my brother went through Worcester Trade and my other two sisters went through high school. I was supporting the whole, whole shooting match there.

MN: Oh, you just went to the eighth grade and then what did they say to you?

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: They said what after the eighth grade?

Mrs. JQ: Well, he had to go to work.

Mr. JQ: I had to go to work to support uh (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: Somebody had to support the family.

Mr. JQ: My mother and, and uh the three kids.

MN: Was your father still alive then?

Mr. JQ: No, he was de, he died.

MN: Oh, he died when you were in the eighth grade?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, yeah. No wait, wait a minute, I, well he, well, he died when he was 63 years old. I don't know how old I was, but I must have been down in my uh twenties, early twenties or something like that.

MN: But when you were in the eighth grade they told you to stop school?

Mr. JQ: No, no, no. I stopped myself, because that, that was the style in those days, you know. So I just quit work and I, and my mother was taking all my money.

MN: Where was your first job?

Mr. JQ: My first job was down at, down Ramsals. I worked there and then I got a job down at Heywoods, and I worked there on school furniture, in the wood shop.

MN: Wait, at Ramsals, what did you do at Ramsals?

Mr. JQ: Ramsals, I was working the paint shop, dipping, you know the dirty work, too. I worked there for awhile there, and uh, I didn't like it so, so I got, I looked around for a job, I got a job in Heywoods. So I got on school furniture, see. And I worked there only during the summer and then probably, it must have been around October, and then school starts so I got laid off. So I went down to Seberts to work, and I worked there for awhile. And they called me back the next year, you know, see on school furniture again, see. So I went back there, so that's how I got all my seniority afterwards there,

you know, because I always came back. See, then that's what's good about it. I went about three times like this that I got laid off, then finally I decided to have some other job there. So I asked my cousin, my cousin used to work in the upholstery room, so I asked him about if he could teach me how, so I used to go there at noontime and then he'd used to teach me how to upholster, you know. And, finally, I talked him into end up going into the furniture business, you know, instead of instead of the school furniture.

MN: When you would get laid off, would you get another job?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, yeah, I always got another job, yeah.

MN: And why they would lay off every year?

Mrs. JQ: Well, when there's no work they used to lay off.

Mr. JQ: There's no work, see. School furniture's only after school is out (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: Seasonal.

Mr. JQ: And then when the schools start you're, you're out. It

Mrs. JQ: But that was the beginning, but after they used to place you in some other department.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, where they had more work.

Mrs. JQ: But when they first didn't have much work, they used to lay you off. But after awhile they'd place you in another department, where it was busy.

Mr. JQ: Show them some of them snapshots that we got there.

Mrs. JQ: They're not interested in those snapshots.

MN: And uh you're, when you said you went there at noontime, because you would be working on another job, and then go and learn upholstery?

Mr. JQ: Well, noontime was the dinnertime, you know. I ate my dinner and then I (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: He was on his own.

Mr. JQ: Then I had maybe 45 minutes to, to learn something. He was teaching me how to do this and that, you know. Go down there maybe I don't know for how long, but uh, I don't know how many months I go, but I never went everyday anyway, you know. Finally, I learned how to do that and uh then I started there, in a, in the furniture business, I stayed there every since.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but you worked in car seats too there.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, car seats, well, that's the same, same job, upholstery.

MN: So you went into the upholstery?

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: When you first went into the upholstery, what did you do exactly? Can you describe it to me?

Mr. JQ: Well, I uh, I upholstered chairs, sofas, leg rests, and then I used to work nights down at Betty Larouche.

Mrs. JQ: It's uh, he used to work on like that overstuffed.

Mr. JQ: That overstuffed, you know, see, I used to make that stuff there. Then, finally, a fella quit down the experimental room, and I asked for the job and I got it. I was a sample maker then. I got more money and uh, cause I, I learned how to upholster down at Betty Larouche studios. Nights I used to work.

MN: After you got out of work at Heywoods, you would go to Larouche?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, I used to go to work there, because I used to own a boat, motor and then I used to work for it, you know, only paid so much.

Mrs. JQ: You know the pays weren't that good then. If you wanted something extra, you had to work extra.

Mr. JQ: So I bought a boat, motor, I said, "We'll go on her fishing."

Mrs. JQ: Sundays (laughing) and vacation times.

MN: Did you go?

Mrs. JQ: Well, sometimes, (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: (Laughing) a few times, but she's afraid of the water.

Mrs. JQ: But I'm afraid of the water. It was nice and calm, I'd go. But he had friends.

Mr. JQ: If she went, if she went it got windy, oh, oh boy we had to go back on shore.

Mrs. JQ: You had to once (laughs).

Mr. JQ: I had a 16 footer so.

Mrs. JQ: One day, one day we went out and he says uh, I said, "Oh, it's kind of windy," and he went, he was going kind of fast, and boy the whitecaps were coming, I started to scream, and that was the end of the whole thing (both laughing). We just got on, he had to come back and we came, oh did I get it. And you know, he likes to go fast and I can't swim, I said, "What if I fall in." I said, "Get your friends and go with them."

Mr. JQ: Oh, I had a 15 horse that would go, the limit was 18, but I had a 15, see so you could go about maybe 15 miles an hour, and that's not fast.

Mrs. JQ: You know when you swim, did you ever see Quabbin?

MN: It's big, isn't it?

Mrs. JQ: It's big, yeah. Well, and there, it was so windy, those whitecaps, I said, "whoo."

Mr. JQ: We used to see all kinds of animals there, deers, wild ducks, all kinds of rabbits there, foxes. I used to fish near shore and we used to watch em drink water there, you know. Had a nice place.

MN: Can you still bring a boat out there?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah. But it's going to be more expensive this year, Dukakis raised everything up.

MN: And you would do that in the evenings or on weekends?

Mr. JQ: Oh, no.

Mrs. JQ: Weekends.

Mr. JQ: Weekends. I used to go out every weekend.

Mrs. JQ: Every saturday and sunday. I used to like it. He'd get out and I'd be home all by myself doing what I want uh.

Mr. JQ: Well, I had a few bodies that wanted to go, so I. And we had fish all the time then, and anytime we bought any fish in the store it hurt me right there (all laughing).

MN: That's cute.

Mr. JQ: So I used to get a lot of hornpout, I used to get pickerel, bass, you know, perch, yellow perch, white perch, I used to get a lot of em. There all good eating fish, you know. Cause that's clean water.

MN: That's a reservoir.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, that's a reservoir, yeah.

MN: Wouldn't you be a little bit tired working all day at Heywoods and then in the ni, every night, did you work every night at Larouche?

Mr. JQ: Oh, no (Mrs. JQ interrupting) about, oh.

Mrs. JQ: When he was a sample maker, I was working harder than he was. Do you know a pattern maker, he's got to take a pattern and he's got to figure it out and then where do you have to cut it, because he had to make the first one. And, you know, you have to save monies, you can't waste any material (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: Joe Collins used to tell em.

Mrs. JQ: So you sit there, and you think and think. Everybody used to tell me are you, I worked, when I first started I used to sand, and you know what sanding is, and I was piecework. I had to work. They said, "Boy, you work harder than your husband." Then I had to come home, I had a little, a boy, I had to take care of his stuff and do my housework and everything and he used (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: I used to, I used to cut out the patterns for the furniture, you know, different parts for different sections of the chair or sofa. And I used to teach the women there, they were cutters, they used to cut and I used to lay, lay it out for them, and draw a diagram, you know, where, where each piece goes, you know, see, and that to save yardage, see. So then, then after I had it down perfect, so I used to oh lay it out for em and give em a diagram there, you know, how it's laid out. And then I used to teach the guys after it got stitched, and I used to teach the guys how to upholster it.

MN: Did they put everybody from the different departments in the experimental room? Like wood shop, upholstery.

Mr. JQ: Oh, no, no, no, no.

Mrs. JQ: Yes, yes.

Mr. JQ: What's that?

Mrs. JQ: Is there a different one for each?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, well, there's metal, there's wood.

Mrs. JQ: Wood, yuh.

Mr. JQ: And there was ashcraft there, too.

Mrs. JQ: Uh they had ea, uh one for each department, for each kind of work.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: Oh, one from each kind of work (Mr. JQ interrupting)

(.....unintelligible).

Mr. JQ: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I had a corner all by myself. I had a stitcher and everything, you know. (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: Like he was, like he was a pattern maker that was for all material. Like for ashcraft and for upholstered furniture and car seats. But then (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: Bus seats, too.

Mrs. JQ: But that went out after.

Mr. JQ: I used to, they used to send me down to Tennessee to teach em how to upholster bus seats. I had uh 21 guys who er work in there, they call me up there, so I stayed there two weeks, and then uh about, I don't know, I don't know, a couple of months after they called me again, all by myself I went. And how do you like that. Before I used to go with a foreman, but at this time I went all by myself and uh the guy used to like me there, you know. But they, they build a electric light company across the road, they all quit and, and that was it. They didn't like the boss there and then they didn't like the pay there. (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: In Tennessee.

Mr. JQ: They're all rebels, you know.

MN: So they all left?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, they're all done, yeah.

MN: They had to hire a new crew?

Mr. JQ: Everyone of them quit. Some of them invite me to their home and everything, you know. But they didn't like the boss over there, he was a pusher and he wanted to put in piecework then, and, and there wasn't time enough to go piecework yet. Piecework is how much you make is how much you're going to get, you know, see. But they weren't that fast enough. I told him, give em another couple of weeks or so, no but they had their own ideas. So that's what happened.

MN: Did they have to hire a whole new crew then?

Mr. JQ: No, no they went, they went kabootz.

MN: That's, they closed the plant?

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: Heywood's plant?

Mr. JQ: Yeah. That's when they, when they folded up afterwards. Then they bought a, there's a fella there that bought a sawmill up in Berlin, New

Hampshire, he paid almost a million dollars, and uh, and they went bankrupt with that, too, afterwards.

MN: Do you know what year the plant closed in Tennessee, more or less?

Mr. JQ: Oh, I don't know. There must have been 25 years back, probably.

MN: So maybe in the early '60s?

Mr. JQ: Somewhere around there, I guess, I don't know. I don't know just how, just I left the right time, though. Because I didn't have nothing to do with it anyways.

Mrs. JQ: No, if you knew all this was going to happen, you'd save pieces or write it down or something, but who knew. It's for.

Mr. JQ: The management. That's what it was. But, when the old man had it everything was all right. When he gave it to the kids, John Heywood and, and then George Heywood, and then they put in this Seth Erickson in there, you were, he wasn't a family man nothing, but he, he spoiled a lot of things. He put in conveyors that, that never even got started.

MN: Towards the end?

Mr. JQ: Yeah. Put in conveyors so they'll be faster, but no, it was too late. They went into soft wood afterwards. And everybody was making soft wood in Gardner, so, what, what the heck good is that.

Mrs. JQ: Did you ever talk with Leonard Yarkin?

MN: No.

Mrs. JQ: No.

MN: I should.

Mrs. JQ: He's, he was the superintendent there.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

Mrs. JQ: He'd tell you a lot.

MN: Let me go back for a sec, well, wait a minute, let's stay here for a minute. You said they went into soft woods?

Mrs. JQ: Pine.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, pine.

MN: They quit the hard wood business?

Mr. JQ: They quit the hard wood because it was hard to get. So they went into uh, it was too expensive too, and hard to get, so they went into pine. Everybody in Gardner was making pine, so.

Mrs. JQ: They started too late.

Mr. JQ: Too late.

MN: Was that in 1960s also?

Mrs. JQ: No, no.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, somewhere around there, I guess, I don't know.

Mrs. JQ: 1960s.

Mr. JQ: Somewhere around there.

Mrs. JQ: It was all, they were still making it when they closed.

Mr. JQ: Well, well, that's when they started to make it.

Mrs. JQ: Oh, yeah, they closed in what '78, I think, yeah.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: Why did they go from hard wood to soft wood?

Mrs. JQ: You couldn't get the hard wood.

Mr. JQ: Because you couldn't get the hard wood.

Mrs. JQ: But everybody was making pine stuff. It looked nice, but (Mr. JQ interrupting) you know.

Mr. JQ: Well, then you bought that uh, uh sawmill up there, you know. Paid uh, I don't know, almost a million dollars I heard for it. That was hard wood. But, then there wasn't enough hard wood left around there, you know. Had to go way past, a hundred something miles to get it, so, they bought it and they were going downhill ever since. Then he (birds chirping).

Mrs. JQ: I had a couple of birds here, you hear them. They're not mine.

Mr. JQ: They're her sisters.

Mrs. JQ: My sister uh, she lives upstairs, but she went to Florida, so I put the heat down a little bit and I didn't want to keep the heat going just for the birds, so I brought em down here.

MN: That sounds nice.

Mr. JQ: She's got a pair there. The, the males raising hell with the, with the, with the female, but she doesn't want to bother with him (all laughing). He's young, you know, and the female is old.

Mrs. JQ: We keep watching them. We have a (still laughing).

MN: Uh, uh how long were you in the upholstery department when you went over there, some years before you went to the experimental room?

Mr. JQ: Well, I'll tell you, I went to, oh, it must have been about three or four years before I got into the upholstery business. I went to my, my cousin was there so he teaching me how to do this, and then I started down the Betty Larouche's. I was working on the easy stuff first, you know, but I picked up pretty fast, you know. And, then I was (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but when you first went upholstery, you weren't a foreman, er you weren't a, how long did you work on upholstery stuff?

Mr. JQ: Oh, I worked on upholstery stuff, probably in Heywoods, for about 25 years.

Mrs. JQ: And then.

MN: Oh, can, eh can you tell me what the room looked like when you worked on upholstery? At Heywoods?

Mr. JQ: At Heywoods? Well, there was a big room, a hundred by three hundred, and they had about uh, they had a cotton room, cotton room table there and uh they had uh casing room there. Casing is the back part of the uh sofas and chairs and the, the, the women (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: They had tables like and each man had a table, cause you know you like you upholster an arm, that's one piece, then you upholster the back, that's another. So you can do it right on the table. They had like there was rows of tables and each fella would sit there or he might stand or something like that, and that's how they used to work there. I used to walk by there, I used to, we used to work there together, but a lot of time we'd have to go to the ladies room, we'd have to go through the upholstery room, and the men used to be wise, you know. They'd take the steel wool and they'd fix it up like a mouse and when you, a woman would go by they'd throw it and boy a lot of times we'd get (laughs), we used to joke around there.

Mr. JQ: That's just play stuff, that's all.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but some guys were fresh.

MN: Would the guys get together and have lunch together, in the upholstery room?

Mr. JQ: Well, sometimes they do. I always ate, ate the dinner with another fella there, in the corner somewhere, you know.

Mrs. JQ: Well, like, like at lunch time you used to get a break in the morning, you couldn't smoke in the shop, so a lot of them would run out, you know, outside and get a few puffs in run in.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, there were quite a few years we came home to eat, didn't we?

Mrs. JQ: No, for lunch.

Mr. JQ: Oh, for lunch, yeah, well.

Mrs. JQ: You know, the break at 9:30, whatever it was.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, but for quite a few years we, (both talking) when it came time, we came home.

Mrs. JQ: Oh, yeah, we, you know, him and I we used to walk. You know where Heywoods is, we used to walk from there home, eat our lunch, and walk back.

MN: Oh, did you live here?

Mrs. JQ: We lived here.

Mr. JQ: Yes, we bought this place in 1943.

Mrs. JQ: But then a lot of very, there was a fella working with him and he says, "Why don't you ride with him, with me?", so he used to pay the fellow, I don't know, a buck or two dollars a week. He didn't want to take anything, but he didn't want to ride for nothing. And I'd be walking and they'd ride by me and they wouldn't pick me up. Ooh, would I get burned up. So finally, I said to him (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: You would be in the shop already.

Mrs. JQ: "I don't know if you want to, want to do it or not, but I'm going to take my lunch and I'm going to eat it in the shop." So finally, I took my lunch and he took his. It was much better. And then we had our big meal at night. Imagine running all the way home and I'd have to, I (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: I wasn't going to pick her up a few hundred feet away.

Mrs. JQ: Uh, well, the women get out, no but the women get out ten minutes uh, ten minutes of the hour and the men five. So I used to walk and run, and then I'd have uh my stuff almost heated up when he'd come home and uh, he always likes to eat slow, I'd eat my stuff fast and I'd start washing the dishes and aw, I says, "I'm getting too old for this." So finally.

MN: Did you have an hour?

Mrs. JQ: An hour, yeah.

MN: So finally...

Mrs. JQ: So finally we start taking our lunch and it was much better.

Mr. JQ: We used to park in the parking lot in back there.

Mrs. JQ: We used to walk.

Mr. JQ: No, no, no, but I mean before when I used to take...

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, we had a car and uh he didn't want to take it because he said all that dust and everything gets, the car gets dirty.

Mr. JQ: Near the shop it does.

Mrs. JQ: So what, you can always wipe it. And you ruin your health, and you'll be out of luck. I said, "If you don't want to use the car, I'm going to take my lunch." So he decided to take his car. But, then we took it and when you're coming home at noon all that traffic, so, we used to get home faster walking than we did with the car.

Mr. JQ: That's right, yeah.

Mrs. JQ: So finally, we took our lunch and a lot of times, him and I, we'd go and eat it in the car. Then we'd go walk up the street, get a little exercise and go back to work.

MN: So you'd eat lunch together?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

MN: Even when you brought your lunch?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

MN: And somebody else told me that some of the guys would play cards or cribbage?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

Mr. JQ: Oh, they do, yeah, yeah. During the noon, noon hours, you know, they'd play cards, some of them read their paper or something, you know. But, a lot, a lot of them played cards. Gamble.

Mrs. JQ: That's where I learned knitting, at noontime. There was a woman working there, a blind woman and you should see.

END TAPE ONE, SIDE A

TAPE ONE, SIDE B

MN: Forever. Give it to your sons. Uh, tell me again. There's a blind woman that knits.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. So I used to watch her and she'd say to me uh, "Don't you knit, 'Mrs. JQ'?" I says, "No, I don't know how." So she says, "Well, tomorrow I'm going to bring some nee, an extra pair of needles and some yarn, and I'm going to show you." And, she, she taught me how to knit. Yup, and she passed away now. But you should see the stuff she used to knit, sweaters and uh hats and booties and, and when I did something I brought it to her, she, she looked at it, she says, "You know, you got a mistake here." I says, "You, how, how can you see, you don't know." And she says, "Yes." And she just took it and she ripped it up to that part and she says, "Start over."
(Laughs).

MN: She could feel it?

Mrs. JQ: Feel it. Yeah, she could.

Mr. JQ: She, aw I forgot to tell you, I was about three years in Heywoods, it'd could be eh 40, 48 probably or 49 years, but I always came back when they called me, so that's how I got all that seniority and I got two, three or four years more there, you know. Because I always came back when they-called me.

MN: They would call you at home?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, they'd call me on the phone at home and, and I'd go back to them and then when I started somewhere else, you know, see.

MN: And you'd quit the other place?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, I'd quit the other place, yeah.

MN: Why did you always go back?

Mr. JQ: Well, liked the job there, it was all right and up here I, I wasn't doing a job that I liked, see. Not like the job that I was doing there.

MN: Did most of the people go back when they called them?

Mr. JQ: Well, I, I don't know if they did or not. I don't know, but I know I did.

MN: And, uh, you said there were lots of tables with men. Was it only men in the upholstery department?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, they're all men and some, some women who worked for cases. They were, they were in the (...unintelligible), in the same room but in the further corner somewhere, you know. Two or three women to a case.

Mrs. JQ: But the men were in one room and then in the next room, the, the casing, that's the back of the furniture, he used to do it.

MN: And tell me what you did. You'd go in in the morning and what would you do, exactly? Describe it for me.

Mr. JQ: I, I would start on my uh pattern making. I used to stitch my own stuff, too, after a while.

MN: This is in the upholstery department?

Mr. JQ: Yes.

MN: Okay. So, tell me a, tell me a given day, an example of a day. You'd go in at seven, was it?

Mr. JQ: I'd go in at seven and I'd start my, my uh, I had a big long table there, so I made all my lay ups there for cotton, too, you know, for the women.

MN: What's a lay up?

Mr. JQ: A lay up is a lay up of, of patterns. So (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: You have to make it by the yardful.

Mr. JQ: It would take so many yards for, for one chair, so many yards for a sofa and I had it marked over there, and I had to give it to the next room. They had uh, the, the women working for, they were, they were doing that casing, you know.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but that lay up you used to tell you that in what.

Mr. JQ: Car bolt, car bolts.

Mrs. JQ: Car bolts.

MN: This isn't in the experimental room? (Mr. and Mrs. JQ both interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: Yes.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: This is in the upholstery. I thought you were in the upholstery department for 25 years.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, I was there.

MN: And then you went to experimental.

Mr. JQ: Then I went to the experimental.

MN: Well, this is in the upholstery.

Mrs. JQ: Oh, well, when you go in the upholstery room, you, when you start working, you just start doing what you're supposed. Well, what, what were you working on, arms or what?

Mr. JQ: Well, I was working on chairs, sofas.

MN: Yeah, tell me about the upholstery room first. When you worked there what you did.

Mr. JQ: Well, I was working on, on stools, upholstery, sofas, chairs.

MN: So, if you got a, if you had to, say you worked on a chair, tell me exactly what you'd do.

Mr. JQ: Yeah. Well, I had a couple of horses. You know what a horse is?

MN: No.

Mr. JQ: There, there kind of shaped like this and (birds chirping) on top of it I used to tool what we used to have. We used to put that on, on a horse and then we used to eh, stuff used to be all ready for us, you know, to put on, all ready cut and everything. Some, somebody else made it, you know, see. Cut it and they gave it to us in a, in a, in a bundle and you would pick out a bundle. We, we, we knew which was, was an arm, a back, a platform; platforms the bottom, see. And, then we used to start to work it with cotton,

felt and everything, you know. With some padded up, you know. And make the arms and make the platforms and make the backs. And then we used to push it over to the women that put on the casing.

MN: Oh, so you would do those three operations; arm, platform and back?

Mr. JQ: Yes, and then we used to push it over to the further end where the women were casing. They'd put on the outside, outside the arm, outside the backs, outside of the wing.

MN: And, so only the wood part would already be assembled when you got it?

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, yeah.

Mrs. JQ: The frame, its the frame.

Mr. JQ: Its the frame, yeah. (Mrs. JQ interrupting)

Mrs. JQ: And there's a spring in it and they had to put in, first they had to put that uh felt like, and then they had to put the cotton, and you have to know how, well, to make the seat.

Mr. JQ: Well, a, a bare frame goes to the springer. Next he puts in the springs, and then he gives it to us, because without any springs you ain't got nothing. You got three springs in a sofa, one in a chair, and they even got one in the leg rest, too.

MN: And would you be on piecework?

Mr. JQ: Piecework, I was piecework -for about, I don't know, 20, 25 years, I guess.

MN: So would you have to go fast?

Mr. JQ: Well, it was piecework is uh, what you make is what you get. I used to make my money, though. Cause I used to work nights, too, you know, so.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but just talk about Heywoods, don't talk about nights.

Mr. JQ: Yes. Well, I learned a little bit up there and.

MN: Oh, so you could learn what, use you what you learned at Larouche's in Heywood, too?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, yeah, two places. I used to work probably three nights a week, that's all. You know, that was enough.

Mrs. JQ: The longer you work you learn shortcuts and everything.

Mr. JQ: I used to make extra money for my boat motor and trailer, you know.

MN: And, in the beginning was there a guy that timed you? When you first started in upholstery?

Mr. JQ: To what?

Mrs. JQ: Timer, yeah, there, there.

Mr. JQ: Oh, yuh, there was a timer, yeah, yeah. He had to time, time you. That comes from the office (birds chirping).

MN: Was it, could I shut the door? Would that be all right? Or would they freeze? So the noise doesn't come.

Mr. JQ: Well, bring them up here.

Mrs. JQ: No, she just doesn't want the noise.

Mr. JQ: Oh.

MN: All right. Thank you. Did you get a system so that he wouldn't time you too fast?

Mr. JQ: Well, I mean uh (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: Well.

Mr. JQ: They used to time me a lot, you know, see.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but you know when the timer comes they always work slow.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: Well, yeah. Everybody says the same thing.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

Mr. JQ: Some places were pretty good, some places were, some parts that weren't that good, you know, even so. Somebody else maybe got a shorter cut some way, you know and

MN: But, would you use your shortcut when the timer was there?

Mrs. JQ: No, no. (Mr. and Mrs. JQ both talking, somewhat difficult to separate), you, you do it the hard, you do it the longest way.

Mr. JQ: Oh, no. You took too many shortcuts, yeah. You, you got to make the arm before you, well, you got to make the platform first and then the arms and then the back. See there's actually not too many shortcuts there. Very little if there was. It all depends how, how fast you spit your tacks out of your mouth.

MN: Spit your tacks out of your mouth.

Mr. JQ: Yeah. With a magnet hammer.

Mrs. JQ: Well, that's what the, you had to put the tacks in your mouth (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: Mouth, yeah.

Mrs. JQ: And then they use a magnet hammer, they just uh.

Mr. JQ: They, I take a, take a bunch of tacks, throw them in here, and I got a magnet hammer.

MN: That would pay you.

Mr. JQ: And I used to turn it around with the head first and I used to.

MN: Would everybody do that?

Mrs. JQ: Yes.

Mr. JQ: Yeah. I'll show you the hammer I used to use.

Mrs. JQ: Where is it? Over here, I'll get it. He got a sore leg standing.

— Oh, it's in the draw here.

MN: So, then you would hit, go hammer like this?

Mr. JQ: No, I don't think there isn't any there.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, this is a magnet.

Mr. JQ: There's one there. Oh, that's not the right one.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but it's on the same idea.

Mr. JQ: That's not the right one.

Mrs. JQ: It's something like this.

Mr. JQ: It's not the right hammer, it's in a bag there.

Mrs. JQ: This is the magnet.

Mr. JQ: (Hammering.) That's no good there. It's a reg, that's not a magnet, magnet hammer, anyway.

MN: But it was a real magnet?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, a real, real magnet, yeah. I just put it in mouth (hammering), just like that.

MN: Why did they time you all the time?

Mr. JQ: Well, because I was (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: This one?

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

Mrs. JQ: That's almost like this one.

Mr. JQ: The one that's split is magnet.

Mrs. JQ: Oh, that side.

Mr. JQ: Then get a piece of metal or something and you can see. Got a piece of metal here somewhere, what's that?

MN: Did they make the hammer at Heywoods, too?

Mr. JQ: Oh, no, we had to buy that. How about that, that truck over there? That's not metal.

MN: It's tin.

Mr. JQ: No.

Mrs. JQ: There's probably a nail over on, in that ashtray over there, on top.

Mr. JQ: (Hammering.) That's even got my name on it, a Z.

MN: Did you have to buy your own tools?

Mrs. JQ: Yes.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, I always had my own tools (hammering).

Mrs. JQ: He used to go out and do work, you know, for different people.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

Mrs. JQ: Well, here's some nails here.

Mr. JQ: Oh, this will probably do it, probably.

Mrs. JQ: (...unintelligible) this is a little bag. See, this is all the stuff he used to use. Hey right here is some nails.

Mr. JQ: What's this.

Mrs. JQ: No, you got some here.

MN: It's hard to see. Oh, I see, it sticks. It is a magnet.

Mr. JQ: Oh, it's probably weak now, you know, through time.

MN: And then you just hammer it in?

Mr. JQ: Yeah. I just put it in my mouth like that. Just like that. And when you get used to it your, your tacks are turning around in your mouth all the time with the head, with the head first, see.

Mrs. JQ: You haven't got any small nails, tacks.

MN: Did you ever get a sore mouth?

Mr. JQ: Well, it's sore for awhile there, but it heals up fast.

Mrs. JQ: See, these are the kind of tacks were used, small ones.

MN: Oh, so small as this.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

Mr. JQ: Oh, no, some are bigger, some are.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but, some are like that, but see they're sharp.

MN: And suppose you were really fast one day, how many, let's say how many sofas could you make in a day?

Mr. JQ: Well, in a day, well, I'll tell you, we used to get about \$7, \$8 for a sofa. Most I used to make, two, sometimes two and a half a day.

Mrs. JQ: You know, the pays weren't that good then.

MN: So you'd only make \$16 or \$24 a day?

Mr. JQ: I used to make \$18, \$20 sometimes a day. But, that was towards the end, though.

Mrs. JQ: Now he never works a day.

Mr. JQ: But, uh before you, they, they were lower, because the union was in and the rates they were, keep raising it all the time, the prices, you know.

MN: If somebody made, if somebody was too fast, would the other guys get mad at him.

Mr. JQ: No, no, no. The faster you are the better off you are, thats all.

MN: But if you were making two and some other guy was making five you wouldn't get made at him?

Mr. JQ: Oh, no, no, no, no, no. There wasn't that type difference. That much difference (hammering).

Mrs. JQ: We all agreed on passing in so much money, you know. And if they had extra, they'd save it for the next day (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: Save it for the next day.

Mrs. JQ: And sometimes you'd get a bad piece or something when you don't feel good, you don't make it, so they'd pass in that ticket for the next day.

Mr. JQ: We used to get a tag with, with each piece, you know, cost sheet that tells you how much it costs to upholster. And a, and a leg rest is uh, so used to keep their leg rest, used to put it in the next day, probably, you know.

MN: Oh, you'd make it say on monday, but if tuesday, oh.

Mrs. JQ: Pass in on tuesday.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, yeah.

Mrs. JQ: Because you, you don't want to pass in too much, if you pass in too much money they'd cut your, they'd say you're making too much.

Mr. JQ: There's always tricks to every trade, you know.

MN: And, uh, could you save it for more than a day, like a few weeks or however long?

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, you could, you could, yeah, yeah. No date on it or nothing, its just a ticket and the price on it.

MN: Did, what'd they call that?

Mr. JQ: Oh, they cal, they just called it leg rest, it says on there, so much money it costs to upholster.

Mrs. JQ: Tickets, they were tickets like and you ripped it off of the frame and you save em and (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: And then there's a.

Mrs. JQ: Then at the end of the week you pass them in and the office they uh (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: There, there's upholstery ticket on there and there's a casing ticket on there for the, for the women, see. So you take the upholstery part out that, that's yours and the casers take the caser, the casing out uh (unintelligible) rip it off, that's their price.

MN: Would you ever call it a kitty though? Somebody said kittys.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, a kitty (Mr. JQ interrupting). That's a kitty. Yeah, you build up a kitty.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, you can build up a kitty, yeah. And I used to blind stitch. Casings, I used to teach em how to blind stitch.

MN: What's that?

Mr. JQ: Blind stitch, you don't see, you don't see the stitches.

Mrs. JQ: Well, like that on the couch, you, you know, around the edge there, the wing, that's blind stitching.

Mr. JQ: See there's no, there's no stitches that show there.

Mrs. JQ: All around here, that's blind stitching.

Mr. JQ: Just one way it's straight you put a tape on it, like a uh tape or narrow paper strip, you know. But, when it's curved you can't do it there so you blind stitch it. And all the way down from the, from the back down it's all, that's all blind stitch. Then afterwards they, they got a new idea, they had a strip about that uh that long, you know, see for the, the, the length of the whole back and they used to whip, whip nails in it. I can show you, I got some (...unintelligible), I guess.

Mrs. JQ: Put that back in the box, it'll be out of your way.

MN: Do you have mostly Heywood's furniture in the house?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, this is Heywood's, those chairs and that. And that bedroom set I said was 50 years old. This box here, yeah.

MN: Wait, wait, tell me that again. What you started, you started as a?

Mrs. JQ: A sander. Yeah, I used to sand on highchairs, but then they didn't last too long, so I, they put me on, I had to uh, they used to have wooden poles, so I used to sand the poles, and then I went on school furniture and I was sanding the seats and the backs and uh like that. I made good money, because that was piecework.

MN: Wait, what was your first job?

Mrs. JQ: Sanding. (MN interrupting.) On highchairs.

MN: No, in, in your life.

Mrs. JQ: Oh, my first job in my life was working in the shoe shop. \$5 a week, my husband says, and a stick of gum.

MN: (Laughing) A stick of gum?

Mrs. JQ: The boss. \$5, imagine \$5 a week.

MN: In Gardner?

Mrs. JQ: Yuh.

MN: Making shoes?

Mrs. JQ: Yuh. They didn't last too long, but uh if there was no work you had to punch out and wait, you could go home if you wanted to, but they wouldn't pay you.

Mr. JQ: Oh, I guess I threw them away, they started getting rusty. This is something else they use in, instead of springs. See, you put that in there and you put it in a vice and you squeeze it together, and then you put it in, in a slot in a chair, in a chair frame, see right up in there.

MN: So it looks almost like the little metal flam?

Mr. JQ: Front, front, back and front, so handle in the spring, they used to have, you know, to, but these are all springs. Springs is much better, you know. They used to squeeze it in a, in a vice and then they just put that in the slot in the wood and then you stretch it and you put it in the front. Then you have so many strips, you know, about five strips on each section, there. I had, I had some there, but I threw them away, they started getting rusty, I guess, I just thought about it.

Mrs. JQ: Do you know why we bought the stuff from the shop? Because you get it cheaper. If you work there you get it cheaper and, and, of course, when you work, you pick out your own and you put an extra coat of finish on it (laughs), lasts longer.

MN: Oh, so you could almost custom make your own piece?

Mrs. JQ: Piece, yeah. Like myself, I used to work, I couldn't do it during working hours, but at noontime or I'd come in earlier in the morning and I'd work on my piece, and then when it's ready (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: One she gets it done, it was perfect, nothing wrong with it.

Mrs. JQ: Eh, of course, I couldn't do it like I said during working hours, but on your own they didn't say anything.

MN: Could you talk to the guys next to you while you were working?

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, yeah.

MN: But you had your mouth full of tacks.

Mr. JQ: Well, well, I had my tacks, I was showing em how to do it.

Mrs. JQ: No, but, uh when you were working, were you talking.

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, I used to tell em how, how to do it, you know.

Mrs. JQ: No, but the guy, yeah, they used to talk.

Mr. JQ: Show em some of the pictures that I got there.

Mrs. JQ: No, they're, what good are the pictures, they're not going to show nothing.

Mr. JQ: Well, the place where I was foreman there two years.

Mrs. JQ: Well, that's just, that's just that one, you have nothing of where you were working.

Mr. JQ: I had an apron on, I put on my apron then I'd teach the guys, the whole thing.

Mrs. JQ: No, but like they used to fool around. They'd talk, but sometimes you couldn't understand it, because their mouths were full of tacks.

Mr. JQ: You know, I used to know, you know, I used to know if they came back from the war all busted in half. '42 or one time, just about half of them came from the war, '45, you know, and then were all, some of them were shaking, you know, and everything. And I used to be good to em, they used to like me there, you know. They used to even, uh-build up a purse for me, give it to me, you know.

Mrs. JQ: Then they do it for all the foremen, anyway.

MN: What is that?

Mrs. JQ: They do it to all the foremen around Christmas, collect money and give em a gift.

Mr. JQ: Not all the foremen. They were, they were who they liked and then, then they got it.

MN: But how did you teach others, if you were on piecework, then you couldn't go very fast?

Mrs. JQ: Oh, he didn't do it when he was uh working on the job, after if they needed somebody to teach it, they took him off and he was made like a foreman. So when you're a foreman, you don't have to do anything. But then he didn't want that, because, you know, hard feelings and all. And then this man was quitting that was pattern maker, so he signed for it and he got it.

Mr. JQ: And I got the job (.....unintelligible).
(Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: And he liked that and that's when he, he retired from pattern making.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: When did, in the early days, you were there just after, what'd you say, 1933 you started?

Mr. JQ: Oh, it must have been around 1931, '32, I guess.

MN: That was in the middle of the depression, wasn't it?

Mr. JQ: Yuh, oh yuh.

MN: Isn't it, didn't hir, Heywoods still hire people, even though it was the depressions?

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, they, they, they'd hire people, but there wasn't that many. A lot of people got laid off, too, you know. See, 1929 was the depression. But I seemed to hold onto a job alright, I didn't have much, too much trouble there.

MN: Somebody told me they remember lines stretching from the door down to Carbone's of people waiting to get into Heywoods.

Mr. JQ: Oh, that's probably the strike or something maybe.

Mrs. JQ: No, to get a job.

Mr. JQ: To get a job.

Mrs. JQ: It was hard to get a job. I don't know how many times I went to looking for a job (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: Oh, I got the job for uh.

Mrs. JQ: And I could never get, he'd say, "Come in tomorrow, maybe there'll be, I don't need anybody today." Oow, I went for many, many times, but then he knew one of the (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: The Yakovinch.

Mrs. JQ: No, not Yakovinch.

Mr. JQ: That was Yakovinch.

Mrs. JQ: Earl Knots, wasn't it Earl Knots?

Mr. JQ: Well, Earl Knots or Yakovinch, it doesn't make any difference anyway.

Mrs. JQ: No and he talked to him about oh, about me, and he asked eh, "Is she experienced?" How can you be experienced when you just get out. Well, he says, "Yeah, she used to sand." So somehow they put me in there and then I worked right, right through, from then on. And, oow, I had a hard time to get in there, too.

MN: But you wanted to?

Mrs. JQ: Well, I wanted to work. But, then I got laid off and I went to work at Conant-Ball. I worked there one year. But, then uh I, I got back in uh I think it was on fifth (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: You worked there 31, fift, 83 years between her and I.

MN: When did you start at Heywoods?

Mrs. JQ: Wait, I don't know. I worked 31 years..

Mr. JQ: Must have been in uh.

Mrs. JQ: And I'm retired nine years.

Mr. JQ: Must have been in the '50s, probably.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, probably.

MN: So you said your first job was at the shoe shop and what came after that?

Mrs. JQ: After that I went to Heywoods.

MN: Oh.

Mrs. JQ: And then I got laid off. I didn't work there too long. There was no work so I got a job at Conant-Ball and that was uh sanding, and then they needed somebody to uh work on the rush seats, so I signed up for that. But I didn't like it, it was too hard on your hands, you know, you have to pull that rush and uh, so I didn't, I went back on sanding. And, then they called me a pa, to Heywoods, so I went back there and I worked there since then, after that. But I had a lot of jobs there. I worked in uh the finishing room and then I worked on school furniture.

MN: What was the first job there? At Heywoods?

Mrs. JQ: On highchairs. Sanding. And then I went on uh, they had war work there, so I went on bomb fuses. So, I uh, no, I think that's where I started, on bomb fuses.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, cause see, my son was small and he didn't want me to leave him with anybody, so I got a job working nights, 3 to 11. So my sister used to come home from school, and they used to go to high school, I think they got out at 2:00, so she used to come around 2:30 and she'd take care of him till 4, till he came home. So that's how I started to work. On, on war work first and then, when war work was done eh anybody that worked there they could get a job working there, but I didn't want to go uh days, so I says, "Nights," but there was nothing nights after war work. So that's when I went to Conant and Ball, but, then in the meantime my son went to school, so I went back and I told them, I said, "If you get anything on days, I'll go. I have nobody to stop me." So that's when I went on highchairs and, then on school furniture and, then on regular furniture and, then I went to burning in. If they didn't close, I think I'd still stay there. It was such a good job. You know, you'd

have a whole in there and you'd have to fill it in and that was day work, they don't know how long it took you. You could fool around with it all day, as long as you fix it and it looks good. And that was a good job.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, but they know how many pieces you made eh.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but you'd always take an easy one and hurry up and do it and, then work on one off-and-on until you'd get it done. That was a good job.

Mr. JQ: Everybody was looking for the easy ones eh (laughs).

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, yeah, but that was a good job. That's why I said, I think I'd still be working cause, it's not, it wasn't that heavy.

MN: How was the sanding?

Mrs. JQ: Wah, sandings tough. You know, it's, it's all in white.

Mr. JQ: Show her the burning you got, burning iron.

Mrs. JQ: No, I haven't got it.

Mr. JQ: Oh, oh.

Mrs. JQ: It's uh, you know, it's uh white and it's rough so you have to sand it until it's smooth.

MN: With your hand?

Mrs. JQ: No, sandpaper.

MN: No, but.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, with your hands.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: Did you wear gloves.

Mr. JQ: Or with a block sometimes, you got a block.

Mrs. JQ: Well, for the top pieces, but you couldn't sand chairs with a block.

Mr. JQ: Oh, no, no.

Mrs. JQ: You have to sand the spindles and.

Mr. JQ: No, you can't.

Mrs. JQ: All that. You'd have to.

Mr. JQ: The edges you can't do with a block.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, you take the sandpaper (getting sandpaper) use those books, you put your sandpaper like this and you have to make sure it doesn't slip and you go like this and like this (sanding). And you know these here, you have two hands you'd have to go if you want to make any money, because you didn't get much for a chair. And, then, when I sanded on school furniture, that was good, cause they were all small pieces, like you would be a seat, you know, or the back. That's all there were or, or a desk, you know, the top. So those were all straight, so that goes easy, so we made good money on that, but uh.

MN: Did you wear gloves?

Mrs. JQ: No. My fingernails were sanded down. (.....unintelligible), I think it would be clumsy. I didn't see anybody wearing gloves on sanding. And, then there used to be a conveyor and sometimes somebody'd be out and he'd send me on the conveyor. Oh, I used to dread that, because, you know, it keeps moving and you have to keep going with it, like to each girl, like one takes one, the next one takes another. There was about, I think there was about six girls there. Then you have to each take your turn. But, sometimes you're still sanding uh your not finished with one and your turn is for the other one. Oh, I used to dread the conveyor.

Mr. JQ: That's working on your nerves.- It's no good. It's

MN: The other part of the sanding didn't have a conveyor?

Mrs. JQ: Not the school furniture. It was too small pieces. They used to have tall tree, it was like a tree, you know, and they had racks like in it and you'd have to take it off, put it on your bench, sand it and put it back, take the next one off and put it on. So you have to go pretty fast.

MN: Did the conveyor make a big difference in how people worked?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, when, when everything is uh, when it's down the other end is ready you almost put packing in your mouths, I'll say.

Mrs. JQ: Well, it was better, because you didn't have to move it around. Especially like bureaus, you know, those are heavy. So you sand it right on the conveyor and it just keeps going, then uh from the sanding somebody else steams it and then another one uh the fella sprays it and it keeps going, going, and it goes through the oven, and then it goes down and then it goes through the packing room. You don't have to take it off at all, it just goes right down and they pack it and then it goes, it's finished.

Mr. JQ: It's a finished product afterwards. Yeah.

MN: And then how did they decide how fast it should go?

Mr. JQ: Well, they can speed it up as fa, as much as they, they want to.

MN: Did they ever uh?

Mr. JQ: That's what's no good about it. They can make it faster or they can slow it up, but they have to have good judgement eh. That thing be going too fast, there's going to be a mess.

Mrs. JQ: Well, if it goes too fast, the people can't keep up with it. Especially, like chairs, you know, when there's so many.

Mr. JQ: That's whats bad about a conveyor. That's they way they have it down at Simplex, too.

MN: They have a conveyor.

Mr. JQ: Oh, they got a lot of conveyors there. Everybody's got, got their thing to do there. If they don't do it, well, it goes by some of them and they take it off. You, you, you know, you take too many off and that's not very good for you.

MN: Did anybody ever stop the conveyor?

Mr. JQ: Oh, you can stop it (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: No, the boss does.

Mr. JQ: But, the boss stops it.

Mrs. JQ: But, you can't, you can't stop it, the boss can. But, uh you're not supposed to.

MN: Do you remember when they first put that in?

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, yeah. The conveyor was in Heywoods, I don't know, it must have been, oh, it'd been quite a while there. It was ever since the union got in there was conveyor there.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, sure.

Mr. JQ: And the union must have got in uh '30s, I guess, late '30s or something like that. I don't know.

MN: How was that? Did people come in and talk to you? How, I mean how did you know that the union wanted to come in?

Mr. JQ: Oh, they come to (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: They used to have a meeting.

Mr. JQ: Meetings, they used to have.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, and they used to tell us how good its going to be with the union. If you have problems, you come to us and we'll correct it. And, if seniority, you go by seniority, well, that was good for that.

Mr. JQ: They used to be on uh Central Street. They used to have a coat room there, right next to Carbones. That's where the union used to have meetings there. That was years ago.

Mrs. JQ: Look at how many times they wanted to get into Simplex, but eh Watkins told them, "Boy, if you get into the union, you're not going to have it that good," and they never er signed up for it. And they get good benefits there. They get bonuses for Christmas and no union and they have.

Mr. JQ: They got a conveyor system though.

Mrs. JQ: I don't know. I never went in there.

Mr. JQ: Oh, yes they have. They have to be on the ball all the time. If you want to go to the bathroom, you got to tell somebody and they go put somebody else in your place. That's the way it goes.

MN: Was that the same in Heywoods?

Mr. JQ: Same way in Heywoods, too. Same way. Yeah. Always somebody got to be there, because a guy could cut the part to do wrong on it. Some section.

Mrs. JQ: I had a lot of books, but when Heywoods closed I went and I through em away. I should've kept the furniture, I had all their furniture things, but I happened to find these. See this is uh all the wood bur.

MN: Those are tours.

Mrs. JQ: Wood tour and this is the metal one. I had to find this, I think this, see there's some conveyors here, how they're going through.

MN: How did people, did they mind that the conveyor was coming in?

Mr. JQ: Well, they have no choice. It's that, if that's what they're going to do, that's what they have to do, that's all. After for (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: And this is a block that he got in

Mr. JQ: After one that got in there first time wasn't bad, but then they speed it up more, you know, then it'd go a little faster.

Mrs. JQ: They did such good work on uh production for war equipment. They got their Es, we even got pins like from the uh.

MN: And how was it when the war was going to start? Was Heywoods changing gradually?

Mr. JQ: What's that?

MN: When World War II started, did Heywoods change gradually or was it.

Mr. JQ: War, war work?

MN: Yeah.

END TAPE ONE, SIDE B

TAPE TWO, SIDE A

Mrs. JQ: Because you, you were making better money on war work, but they couldn't go. See, we got these pins for that, excellence, each one of us.

MN: Oh, each one of you got them.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. Then we used to get these pins for the uh that was his 40 years.

MN: Service pins.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. This is mine, 25 years.

MN: Were they supposed to be real gold?

Mrs. JQ: Supposed to be.

Mr. JQ: Well, 14 carat probably. Not solid gold. Fourteen carat probably.

MN: Uh, and di, you were saying about when the war, when they were converting to war work, did the whole factor convert?

Mrs. JQ: No, no.

Mr. JQ: No. Just part of it, they had it for war work. They made bomb fuses and things like that. They made cargo bodies, too, for the Army.

MN: But a lot of women came into the plant then?

Mrs. JQ: Yes, women, mostly women were working on war work, because it was all little dainty stuff, like on drills, on those bomb fuses. That was good. Good money in it, too. I worked yeah.

MN: Was it still piecework?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. But it was easy. Just sit, pull the drill down, make some holes. Each one had a different hole to make, you know, you just pass it down and each one knew whe, where to go, you know, where to put the drill. And, then at one time I was making these uh bomb fuses (.....unintelligible). No shit, those were shells uh?

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, they were that tall and you had to put rubber in the bottom. That was good, too, but, it didn't last too long.

MN: And, then as the war was ending, from reading the Shop News it seemed to me that suddenly the war ended and suddenly there was no more war work.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, that's right.

MN: And, then a lot of people got laid off, didn't they?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

Mr. JQ: Oh, sure.

Mrs. JQ: Sure, all those that worked on war work.

Mr. JQ: Oh, they, they worked nights most of the time, they did on war work.

Mrs. JQ: No, they had a day shift.

Mr. JQ: Day shift they had, yeah, yeah.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, yeah. But, then un they all got laid off.

MN: Mostly women again, right?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. And, then they started on guns. They made guns there for a little while, too. But, that didn't last too long. I don't know, why did they, why did they stop the guns?

Mr. JQ: Oh, I don't know. I know they made cargo bodies for the Army, for the trucks.

MN: Uh, did, when they had war work it was day and evening. Did they have a night one?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, they had to have them put an extra shift on nights, because there was had so much of it. They couldn't handle it during the day.

Mrs. JQ: I think there was three shifts. There was uh an uh from 7 to uh.

Mr. JQ: Yes, three shifts and night shift there.

Mrs. JQ: No, from 7 to 3, then from 3 to 11, and then from 11 to 7, yeah.

Yeah, because there was three shifts. I worked from 3 to 11.

MN: Did you convert to war work?

Mrs. JQ: No, he couldn't go.

Mr. JQ: No, no. I was trying to get in on war work, but they, they wouldn't let me go.

Mrs. JQ: They wouldn't take any of them. A lot of them that worked on furniture they wanted to go, they couldn't go. Everybody would go, who'd be working on furniture? They had to keep that going.

MN: So they continued to make furniture during the war?

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, yeah. Right along, yeah.

Mrs. JQ: That's why a lot of them were kidding, they said, "Yeah, look at those on war work they're making big money and we're working for peanuts."

MN: Oh, the people from furniture, they didn't change their wages to match the war work?

Mrs. JQ: No, no. Well, I guess on war work the government was giving some, something towards that.

MN: And did they promise the women that they could work there afterwards?

You know, the women that were on war work.

Mr. JQ: No, they were, after the war work was done a lot of people got laid off.

Mrs. JQ: No, they didn't. Well, they came around there eh, if they want you to work days, like me uh they came to me and I couldn't work days, so, but there was nothing to work from 3 to 11 for women after. So I got laid off. Then I was collecting for awhile, so I got the job at Conant-Ball, but eh, then they called me there so it was alright. I retired from there.

MN: Did you get involved with the union?

Mr. JQ: No, no. I didn't have no part in it. No, but all the fellas that belonged there, I used to teach em how to do this, that, you know. They belonged to the union.

MN: Did you join it?

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, like I joined it when I was piecework. Then, when I, they made me foremen of the uh I was off there for about six months, but, then they wanted to take my table and bring it down to the where the upholstery is and

I'd go make my patterns there, and then, then they kept the guys here. So I said, "The hell with that." So I went back on, back in the experimental room I went.

MN: Oh, that's when you (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: You didn't belonged to the union then, in the experimental.

Mr. JQ: No. Yeah, I belonged to the union then.

Mrs. JQ: Oh, you did?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, oh yeah.

MN: What was, was it good or bad, the union?

Mr. JQ: The union, well, sometimes (unintelligible) it was all right and it wasn't too bad, you know. But some people make it look bad, you know, see. they always want a raise, a raise all the time, you know. That's the whole problem with the, with some of the people.

Mrs. JQ: It was good for seniority.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

Mrs. JQ: Because if they didn't have the union and uh you were a bosses friend, you'd get the best work and you'd never get laid off, but it was good for that.

Mr. JQ: They were always good to me. I didn't never have any problems of any kind. I worked on my work the best I could and that was it. I never gave anybody any trouble, but uh.

MN: Did they ever try to get you to go faster?

Mr. JQ: No, well, I was, I was one of the fast ones there. Fastest ones there, because a lot em I was always teaching em.

MN: And, then you say it was funny to be a foreman huh?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, well, they made me foreman there of 42 guys and then they go and bring my department from the experimental room where they put my table in the further corner there, so I can make my patterns and, and my, my lay ups

and teach the guy learning how to cut it and everything, and they kept the guys, so I said uh.

Mrs. JQ: You know why he didn't want to be foreman, because he knew what the men were making, they were making more money than he was and uh he said, "Gee, I know how to uh upholster and everything, why should I take a cut in my pay." So then they told him, "Well, you can work Saturdays."

Mr. JQ: And uh 5:00 in the afternoon.

Mrs. JQ: So he says, "Why should I work so many hours and make just as much as they do in 40 hours." So he said, "I don't want it. I'll go back on the bench."

MN: Was that supposed to be an honor to be a foreman?

Mr. JQ: Well, I don't know, uh I don't know if it's an honor or not, but I didn't like it anyway.

Mrs. JQ: Well, some like it, but, you know. You don't have to work that hard. But he wasn't there for the honor, he wanted the money.

Mr. JQ: Too much for me, that's for sure. So I just quit and I want to go back on, in the experimental room, so that's where I stayed after that.

Mrs. JQ: He liked the experimental room, because he didn't have to work hard. He never was tired. He was always ready to go someplace and here's me working 48 hours, come home and doing my work here, he says, "Let's go, let's go to Fitch, let's go to Boston." Ooh, I says, "Geez, am I tired." He says, "Tired from what?" I says, "Sitting around."

Mr. JQ: Well, you wasn't going to do the driving.

Mrs. JQ: (Chuckling) Always wanted to go and now that he can't go he finds it hard, because he was always on the go.

MN: What did you do down in the experimental room?

Mr. JQ: Well, I made the patterns. The first, made the first sample and if they liked it, they put it in production. Joe (unintelligible) used to tell

what they used to give me a diagram he wanted, he showed me what it looks like, a picture of it, you know. Sketch of it, you know. And I'd try to copy that, you know, see. So I used to copy it and he used to look at it and he say, "Yeah." Some of it looked good and other pieces looked even better, so he'd put the better ones in production afterwards. And, then when they put it in production I had to go and teach the fellas. I had to walk from experimental way down the other end of the shop there, about un seven, eight hundred feed, I guess, over there to, to teach em, you know. But, I didn't mind that, you know, see. I used to come in with my little bag there, you know, and I used to teach em how to do this and that, you know. And they're all veterans, too, you know. But, they're a bunch of nice guys. I used to treat em good, you know. I used to talk to em when I was there, you know. I never used to get em riled up about something, but, boy, did they used to like to gamble, though. Oh, boy.

MN: I wonder if they learned in the service.

Mr. JQ: They'd toss, toss quarters with me, half a dollars (chuckling). Heads, tails...so after awhile I had to quit. I don't mind losing a couple of quarters, you know, a couple of half a dollars, but, when you start losing pretty steady, you know, so. So I had to quit.

MN: Quit?

Mr. JQ: Had to like (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: If I made some coffee, would you have some?

MN: Yeah, I'd love some.

Mr. JQ: And, I had to, had to quit, because it was, it was too much.

MN: Quit what?

Mr. JQ: With the uh gambling. They were, they were gamblers. I don't know where, where the hell they got that from. Most have been across, (Mrs. JQ interrupting) across from somewhere.

Mrs. JQ: In the service.

Mr. JQ: But, they got it. Yuh.

MN: Did they mind when you didn't gamble with them?

Mr. JQ: No, they didn't mind it, you know, so. Oh, I, try it again, try it again, it might be your lucky quarter, lucky half a dollar, you know...

MN: So were you the boss of them when you were in the experimental room?

Mr. JQ: No, no, I was working, I had my own corner there and I was doing all the, all the uh Joe Connor and Frank Parrish were, were my bosses. They told me what to do. So they gave me a sketch and I had to look at it, study it, you know. They gave me a frame. The frame was made by the fellas that worked in the experimental, out of wood, bare frame, and I had to start from that, you know. And, then when I got it all done and I gave it to somebody, a woman to case it up for me, and, then they looked at it, they liked it, so they put it in production. That's the way it went.

MN: And would you ever modify their design or change it a little bit?

Mr. JQ: Well, at times I did, you know, they told me to change this for me, to change that, you know, and have a smaller panel here or something, you know, and so.

MN: And, then you were day rate?

Mr. JQ: That was a day rate, yeah, that was, that was day work. I didn't have to rush at all, I took my time, you know. I had all the time in the world.

MN: Did you miss that kind of pressure to keep producing? Did you miss the piecework?

Mr. JQ: No, I liked it better. I liked it better. I made a little more money piecework, but, then I got some raises, you know, so it was. Then, they wanted to give me uh I told em the fellas were making more money than, than I was, when I was teaching em, you know, after about three months. So I told

them about it, he told me, told me I could work saturday morning, come in and work till 5:00 at night, you know, see that made, make seven, eight hours extra a week. But, I didn't think that was right, anyways, so. I'd rather work down at Betty Larouche over there (laughing). That was even different than my work, Betty Larouche. I was piecework there, you know, see.

MN: Is that a factory like Heywoods?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, it was, it was a smaller factory, though, but they made furniture like Heywoods did. In fact, they gave them some pieces to make there instead, because they couldn't handle it, so they helped em with it.

MN: Yeah, then his son reupholstered a chair for me.

Mr. JQ: Who?

MN: Larouche.

Mr. JQ: Larouche, yeah.

MN: And his son?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, yeah.

MN: Did a chair for me.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, he was one of the owners.

Mrs. JQ: You got a chair from him?

MN: He just reupholstered it.

Mrs. JQ: I think, isn't that where you uh we bought that parlor set? Oh, no, from Smith's.

Mr. JQ: Smith's, yeah, we bought it from Smith's, yeah. I used to work there and, and, and I couldn't make my own new parlor set. There was somebody else had to make it.

MN: Did you know how to work with wood?

Mr. JQ: Well, no, not, not with wood, I mean. Oh, I knew a little bit about wood, but not that much that, you know, I could get a job on it, you know.

You have to know this and how the wood appears and how to cut it and

someplaces you cut it wrong, you know, and it cracks or something, you know. (A lot of loud noise in the background.) On upholstery I knew everything, everything about upholstery, anyways. And, then car seats came in. I used to do that, too.

MN: Still in the experimental department?

Mr. JQ: Yup, in experimental I used to go to, they sent me down to Tennessee to teach the guys how to do bus work, bus seats, you know, see. I spent two weeks there one time and another two weeks I was all by myself there, I, I didn't like that at all. A bunch of rebels up there.

MN: What do you mean rebels?

Mr. JQ: Rebels. Well, they're not characters, you know, and, and uh and they're rebels there. The one, the one that get a half an inch of snow, nobody shows up to work. They slide all over the place, but they're a bunch of, they were a bunch of nice guys, you know. They'd invite me to their house a few times in there and then most of them lived in shacks, Christ some of them were plywood shacks, yeah. (.....unintelligible) was a foreman there, he invited me to his house, I tell you he had a nice house, yeah, see, bought it when it was new, bought it when it was cardboard and he dressed up like a bigshot.

MN: And what about, tell me more about the union. Did it, was it active during World War II? I mean uh, well, what's, did it make any difference in the workplace, having the union?

Mr. JQ: No, no.

Mrs. JQ: Like we never have much to do with the union, because we never have much trouble, we always seem, we mind our own business and I don't know. The only time I went is when uh the boss used to want to take me off of my job and put me somewhere else, and I said, "Why should I go there, I got more

seniority?" So I went to the union and they corrected him, you know, everything was fine.

MN: So it helped you?

Mrs. JQ: It helped me. That's the only thing that I liked it for, it was seniority. I always figured, there was no seniority (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: Oh, the bosses used to try get away with stuff, you know, see, but, they when they could they'd get in trouble.

MN: Like what?

Mr. JQ: Well, they tried to, to move somebody to another place, job, you know, or something, you know. They'd want to know the reason and everything, and the union, the, the guy would come in from the union and uh talk it over, you know, and it was all done.

Mrs. JQ: And a lot of times they'd have to give them their back pay if they got laid off or something and they had the seniority, they'd get their pay, because they should have been working. That was good for that.

Mr. JQ: Oh, for seniority, it was very good.

Mrs. JQ: Very good.

Mr. JQ: Because a lot of times they laid off somebody that got more seniority than somebody else, you know, and, but this would.

Mrs. JQ: What I think, they always wanted raises. I think that's what hurt em a lot, too. (Mr. JQ interrupting.)

Mr. JQ: Well, its the heavy.

Mrs. JQ: You know, everytime the people'd get a raise they'd have to raise their furniture and their, their furniture was high as it was. People couldn't afford it.

Mr. JQ: Yeah. You know there's always troublemakers in the, in the shop where, where there's always one race that starts something up, you know, and then build it, build it up, oh like a big deal, you know.

Mrs. JQ: He has a brother in New Hampshire and uh his uh, his wife uh brother owns a, owned a furniture factory in New Hampshire and she was telling us that he had to stop buying it from Heywoods, because it was too expensive and people wouldn't buy it. And, it was uh, the other furniture was just as good.

Mr. JQ: Well, that was when it was hard wood.

Mrs. JQ: No, but, you know, Emma. She said her brother owned that uh store and he had to stop buying it because it was too expensive.

Mr. JQ: Then, when they went into soft wood, that was it, in the kabootz, everything went.

MN: And, then what happened in the, after war work stopped and they went back to furniture? That was in the late '40s, early '50s, right?

Mr. JQ: Somewhere around there, I guess, I don't know just what year it was.

MN: And, then wasn't there a strike in the '50s?

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, there was a strike there. (Mrs. JQ interrupting.)

Mrs. JQ: No, that's not true.

Mr. JQ: There was, there was a couple of strikes. Good ones, too.

MN: Can you tell me about that?

Mr. JQ: Oh, before woodwork and they were striking.

MN: What for?

Mr. JQ: Causing a lot of trouble. They wanted more money.

Mrs. JQ: More money. Well, we didn't have it too bad, because when we were striking, that's when he went to work there full time at uh Larouches and I was home. So we got a pay, a weeks lea, a week pay anyway. But, the people that used to be on strike, if they went to picket, they'd get eh turkey or something for Thanksgiving like or get some money for groceries, but, I was too proud to go and picket, so I said eh, he said, "Well, I'll go and get a job," and they took him, so. A lot of places wouldn't take strikers. But, they were busy there, so, it came in handy for them too.

Mr. JQ: The last strike, I guess, hurt em very bad, cause it was uh.

Mrs. JQ: It was long.

Mr. JQ: Long, yeah.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

Mr. JQ: And after they went into soft wood and that finished it, yeah.

MN: Do you remember voting to go on strike?

Mrs. JQ: We didn't, I voted no.

Mr. JQ: Well, I voted the same way, no, so. I know what they can cause, but some people don't care. They don't have much seniority, anyways, so they ain't got nothing to lose.

MN: But you didn't cross the picket lines?

Mr. JQ: Oh, no, no.

Mrs. JQ: No.

MN: Why not?

Mr. JQ: No.

Mrs. JQ: You'd be called scab. Never.

Mr. JQ: We just stayed home, that's all. Let somebody else handle it. We didn't vote for a strike there.

Mrs. JQ: And, then when we went back, we had a ten percent cut. We went for less money. God, you know, you, you, they're going to give you more money, they're going to have charge more for the furniture and the furniture was high as it was.

MN: Did you feel like you were making enough money?

Mr. JQ: Well, I was (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: No, everybody wants more, you know.

Mr. JQ: Well, I always felt, I was getting the top, the top day rate then, you know, see, and nobody was getting any, any higher than me. Well, well there might have been a few in the, the Heywoods that were getting the same

price I was, you know. And, and, there wasn't any higher, no, nobody else. I always got the top eh, the day rate there, anyway, for what I was doing.

Mrs. JQ: You know where I put my, I had my first paycheck. What was it \$56 or something, after they took everything out. I don't know where I put it.

MN: Did that change how the factory felt after the strike. I mean, were people angry at the company or?

Mr. JQ: Well, they didn't get much of a raise. They some of them went back, they had to go back, they were starving, that's the way it is.

Mrs. JQ: Then, they didn't uh care how they did their work, you know. They figured get a cut, why should we kill ourselves.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: They cared before?

Mrs. JQ: Well, some do, some, you know, there's all kinds of people. Some are conscious of their work and others, you know.

Mr. JQ: I know Mrs. JQ and I were always conscious of our work. I always tried to do good work, you know, see, but some peoples get work just to make more money. I used to get throw it back at em, you know. That's what got em mad. That's probably how the strike was too, you know. Sometimes the foreman can cause a strike, too, you know.

MN: How?

Mr. JQ: By giving a lot all that work back for the people. They, they want the job right.

Mrs. JQ: You have to fix it for the same price.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: Oh, you didn't get more money.

Mrs. JQ: No, if your, if you did a bad job, you got to do it over.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, you got to do it on your own time. That's what started it.

MN: Cause somebody told me there were also some walk-outs, too. People just, in the sanding department.

Mrs. JQ: Sanding, yeah. We have girls all got fired.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, sanding (.....unintelligible).

MN: Were you there then?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. Well, I wasn't working there, that was in the wood shop. I mean, uh, I wasn't working in that department, I was working on the other side. But, they walked out and the, that was illegible.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, that's right.

Mrs. JQ: So they all got fired.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: Why did they get so mad to walk out?

Mrs. JQ: They wanted more money. They had to work hard.

Mr. JQ: Well, well, wasn't Brownie one of them?

Mrs. JQ: Brownie was one of them, yeah. (Mr. JQ laughing).

MN: What's Brownie's last name?

Mrs. JQ: Mobliss.

MN: I got it. I meant to call him, but I always forget to.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but he bettered himself, he went to work up uh, uh Digital, and that's where he retired from him. So he probably wouldn't.

Mr. JQ: I guess that so many walked out with him and that, that was it. Never got hired back.

Mrs. JQ: It was the whole department, wasn't it?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, well, all, almost the whole department. It wasn't the whole department.

Mrs. JQ: The whole woodshop, yeah. But, that was in woodshop.

Mr. JQ: Oh, some of them were probably weren't getting good work, you know, lousy work and the boss probably didn't like them, so he just gave them some bad work, you know. But, that happens, you know.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but they wanted more money, I think.

Mr. JQ: Well, they wanted more money, too, you know.

MN: And what about the company, did it change much while you were both there? New inventions or new ways of doing things.

Mr. JQ: Well, the.

Mrs. JQ: Well, the new way was the conveyor, when we first went there was no conveyor, each one had to push their work. They had like dollies, you know, or things with wheels, so it wasn't too heavy. But, then, when it was easier.

Mr. JQ: Where the trouble was, they made too many conveyors. Some of them weren't even working.

Mrs. JQ: Working, yeah.

Mr. JQ: They were dead. Somebody suggested conveyor for this, conveyor for that and but it was something else, only one or two of em were working, that's all.

MN: Why wouldn't they use the other ones?

Mr. JQ: Well, because they was, wasn't right.

Mrs. JQ: Nothing to put on it.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

Mrs. JQ: Like, like what I was doing, burning in, some other things you couldn't do on it. If there was a bad piece, you'd have to take it off and work on the floor, like if you just have to touch up a little bit, well, you could always mix something and touch it up and let it go.

MN: Oh, burning in was on the conveyor?

Mrs. JQ: Well, some of it. But, if it was a big hold, you couldn't do it, you can't walk with it and burning it, so they have to throw it out. So, finally, they put all the burner ins on the floor and they used to throw it off. Then, when we would do it, finish it, we'd have to put it back on the line and it would go down.

MN: So you'd have to lift it up?

Mrs. JQ: No, well, the men would do it. But, you could select like a chair or.

Mr. JQ: It was a heavy piece, the men would, the men would help out.

Mrs. JQ: The men would do it. Like these tables, too, we used to have to lift em and boy, these are heavy. We used to have to sand the edges and sometimes we asked the man to help us (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: It all come from Heywoods, too.

Mrs. JQ: We'd ask a mans, "Can you help us lift that." He says uh, "Why should I, if you can uh. You're making the money, lift it yourself." And there's all kinds of people.

Mr. JQ: Sure, the table probably weighs 200 pounds.

Mrs. JQ: When I used to work with a woman that was older than myself and sometimes if she was kind of short, but, she was a fast sander so we'd get and she, sometimes she wouldn't feel too good, so, I said, "I'll ask him." And, he says, "Let her do it, she's working." And he wouldn't come and help us.

MN: Was it mostly women that were burners ins?

Mrs. JQ: Oh, no, there was some men. More women than men, though. They, there was only two women eh men, Hadmack and Whitey.

MN: How many burners in were there?

Mrs. JQ: Oow, towards the end there was a lot, the stuff was coming bad. We were, the wood was split so, you know, what the repairman used to split it a little more and then put a shim in it, you know, like a piece of wood, and then we'd have to fill that in and then, touch it up, and make it look like the grain of the wood. So sometimes that would take a long time and that's what the people didn't like. A lot of the stuff was coming back, you know, it was splinting.

MN: What do you mean towards the end?

Mrs. JQ: Eh, uh before they closed. They were put, passing all kinds of work.

Mr. JQ: Well, they, they, they done all the work that there was on the side, you know, they didn't know what to do with it, it was so bad. So they had to do something, so they got the women, I guess, and fix it up and let it go.

MN: So the quality was (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: And, then it'd come back.

MN: The quality went downhill.

Mrs. JQ: Downhill, yeah.

MN: Why? Why peop, didn't people still care?

Mrs. JQ: Well, the people, we used to tell em, but, they said, "What are we going to do, throw it away." You know, it would crack. A lot of times they'd uh do so much ahead and then, they'd pack it and they'd put it in a cold room and, you know, cold and hot, the wood would crack. But, they would send it out and when the company gets it or the store or whatever gets it, when they see that crack, they send it back.

Mr. JQ: Oh, that was long ago, (.....unintelligible) a coffee person then, you know.

Mrs. JQ: They'd send it back, so, uh we'd fix it and then, they'd send it back and they weren't satisfied with it. It's uh, it's a crack, he'd want a new part. But, you put in a new part, how can you put it if you've got a - crack here, you'd have to put that whole back in there.

MN: But, in the early days people were more careful? Why, why did the cold cause (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: Well, there's all kinds of people. Some people just don't care, just didn't want to watch (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but it seems they had better wood.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

Mrs. JQ: It was, oh I don't know.

MN: Which did you like better? Being a burning in or in the sanding?

Mrs. JQ: Burning in.

MN: Why?

Mrs. JQ: Sanding was hard, and dusty and dirty. And, you have to work near the paint shop, where they have the stain, and it smells and (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: Well, we don't have to worry about nothing now. Fifty years married already...

Mrs. JQ: Whenever I, I don't make coffee too much, so I hope it's all right.

Mr. JQ: Fifty, 50 years.

MN: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, The House of Representatives Citation, Be it hereby known to all that The Massachusetts House of Representatives hereby offers its sincerist congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. JQ in recognition of celebrating your fiftieth wedding anniversary. May you have continued health and happiness together.

Mr. JQ: Fifty years, one argument still going on.

MN: November 1988. What's the one argument?

Mr. JQ: Still going on.

MN: Oh, (laughing) that's cute. Uh, well, let, let's talk a little bit about the end. You know, the other day I couldn't ask you Mrs. JQ, because there was so many people, but, uh could you see the end coming?

Mrs. JQ: Well, I couldn't see it, but, you know, they were saying, "It's going to close, it's going to close." And, then, when they were saying it's going to close, you could see there wasn't much work and we were all worried, what are we going to do. But, I was lucky, I was going to be 62, so I could retire, so I says, "Good." But, some couldn't, they had to uh, a lot of them went to Nichols & Stone. I probably would have went there, too, because they were hiring all the eh Heywoods help, but. It was sad. Everybody felt bad.

But, he was already home, so he was kind of glad, cause I was going to be with him (laughs). You know, when I was working and he was home alone, he didn't know what to do. That's why he worked longer.

Mr. JQ: I used to get the dinner ready a lot of times.

Mrs. JQ: He worked till he was 68, I guess.

Mr. JQ: Sixty-eight. I got extra money for that, yeah.

MN: Did they encourage you to stay longer? I mean, after 65.

Mr. JQ: Well, no, they didn't say nothing, so I just kept on.

(Unintelligible) if I could see it coming already, you know. I heard it through the grapevines, you know, that Heywoods is in bad shape there, you know, see. So I, I asked uh, uh Bill Sterns about it and he says, "Go ahead, I'll fill out the papers for you and you can retire at 68." Well, I asked Frank Parrish, because he was my superintendent, but he was uh he died not too long ago.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, just last year.

Mr. JQ: He was a good superintendent.

Mrs. JQ: He was a good superintendent. He, he, one of the, his son died first and then, another son died and then the father died all in the same year, within a short time.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, yeah.

Mrs. JQ: The two boys had cancer, I guess, and, of course, the father was

(Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: He was a nice superintendent, too.

Mrs. JQ: But he was a nice man.

Mr. JQ: And, Joe Carr was always full of hell, anyways, so. Him (laughing) and I used to have a lot of fun there. Everytime I got a joke somewheres I used to tell him, he used to tell me his jokes and I used to tell him mine and we used to pass them.

Mrs. JQ: That's his second wife, you know.

MN: Yeah, he said so. His first wife, he said, was Irish extraction, but not from Ireland.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

END TAPE TWO, SIDE A

TAPE TWO, SIDE B

Mrs. JQ: Hun, did you interview his son, Ricky?

MN: (...Unintelligible). Did, how did people feel about...

Mr. JQ: Is his tall, still tall and skinny?

MN: Yeah. Yes, and even glasses. How did people feel about Greenwood? Did they like him, not like him?

Mrs. JQ: Well, he was good until uh, uh he started to uh get out of there. Then (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: Well, they give, they give him a hard time.

Mrs. JQ: No way he took everything, then the people were saying, "Well, look here it was so good, you have to take everything and now look at the way it's running."

Mr. JQ: Yeah. But it might have had something to do with him, but uh I'm not sure, I don't know. Just rumors. I don't want to talk about something that's, don't know anything about.

Mrs. JQ: But it seems when the young ones took over, like John Heywood, George Heywood, it kept going down and down.

Mr. JQ: Well, John Heywood was alright, but George Heywood was a kind of a sneaky guy, you know. He done everything on, on, on the sly there, you know, and the both brothers, you know. One was all together different from the other. Yeah. Oh, I got along with George, I got along good with both of them there, you know. Didn't have any problems. I always done my work correct,

try to do it right, you know. So that's probably why I stayed there until I was 68.

MN: What about the new generation of people that came in, the younger ones? Did they care about their work also.

Mrs. JQ: No, they, they, a lot of those younger ones, they were on welfare. They never put in a full week. Because, you know you make so much money, you don't get welfare. So they'd just work so many hours and stay out so they can collect. (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: You know, when one...

Mrs. JQ: You could never depend on them.

Mr. JQ: When she started to retire, there was a lot of people on dope then, too, you know. A lot of these young people were on dope. And that's bad. They ruined their lives. They don't even care about their work or nothing.

That's why there's so much killings around Boston.

MN: So they might come to work under the influence.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, sure. Use alcohol and drugs.

MN: Would you ever see people drinking or doing drugs?

Mr. JQ: Oh, I saw, I saw a lot of people take a bottle out and drink, but I didn't bother, I never said anything about it, anyways, so. It wasn't any of my business. I wasn't, I wasn't going to get anybody in trouble.

MN: Would women do that too?

Mrs. JQ: I never saw anybody, no.

Mr. JQ: Oh, I see, we used to go to the men's room where some drink there (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: Not men, not women.

Mr. JQ: Probably not, oh, I don't know no woman drank, but I know some of the fellas did, though. But, I never said anything, anyway. None of my business. Somebody else...

Mrs. JQ: Well, I know one that uh, Guy Ome, he used to do it.

Mr. JQ: Oh, well, oh, he used to drink a lot.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. And Johnny Culinar.

Mr. JQ: Yup.

Mrs. JQ: Eh hem. Their both...

Mr. JQ: I'd say he used to drink like, they used to drink right out in the open, there. Have a bottle and used to drink it, but, uh none of my business, so.

MN: What about the idea that some people thought the work was monotonous? Did that ever bother anybody?

Mr. JQ: What's that?

MN: You know, you keep doing the same thing. You did it, later on.

Mr. JQ: Oh, no, it didn't bother me, because I done a variety of work, see. But, she was used to just burning in.

Mrs. JQ: I did sand and sand, oow, I used to be boring, but you didn't know how to do anything else, you have to do if you wanted to get a pay.

Mr. JQ: I can always change jobs on mine, you know. I can always do something else. If I get sick of something, then I'd do something else. I had so much work to do there, you know. I'll do pattern work or I'll do some sample work or stitching or something like that, you know. It's, sometimes the women they was sick of something, so I used to do my own stitching, too, you know, see.

Mrs. JQ: I'm surprised that that Leonard Yarkin didn't come to the meetings when he'd see it in the paper. I thought he'd be there.

MN: I don't know if he's on my list. Sometimes I send out newsletters when they, that's how they know about the meetings.

Mrs. JQ: I'm surprised. I thought he'd be in, he would be, he never came to any of them, huh?

MN: I don't know. He might've. I didn't know, I didn't learn everyone (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: (....Unintelligible)guy, but, he had a lousy eh.

Mrs. JQ: Disposition.

Mr. JQ: His helper there was a assistant foreman, he was a lousy, he was a louse. Caused a lot of problems there. I saw it because, but uh I didn't want to say nothing, none of my business. You can't holler at a helper, you know, and give him hell for this and that.

MN: Can you give me an example of something that might have gone wrong?

Mr. JQ: Well, something, but I don't know what it was, I wasn't that, I was a distance away, was giving her hell for somebody, I don't hear what he was saying, you know. Then I went back to work and he said, "Go back to work and do it right." That's all I heard. So, but then that didn't bother me. The heck, it was none of my business. It wasn't even my department.

MN: What about parties? Wouldn't people have little parties in the earlier years?

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, they had a lot of parties. Birthday parties they had there, you know.

Mrs. JQ: Christmas parties.

Mr. JQ: Christmas parties they used to (Mrs. JQ interrupting) used to.

Mrs. JQ: It was nice. Like uh, when we had the social club, we used to have Christmas parties with the kids and uh, uh in the summer the corn roasts.

Mr. JQ: We got a lot of pictures of those parties.

Mrs. JQ: All the people were, the whole Gardner could go for that, as long as they paid. And, uh people were looking forward to it, cause they used to have a good time, they used to have a, Heywood's used to have an orchestra and then they'd have a nice stage show. They were good to their help. And, like, they used to uh, you worked so many years they used to have these banquets, honor

roll employees, and when I reached my 20 years, no banquet. All I got was this. I couldn't even go to the banquet.

MN: Heywood Wakefield is pleased to honor Mrs. JQ, signed John Heywood, President, and Leo Sharon, Manager.

Mrs. JQ: Manager. That's all I got. And, when it was my time already for a banquet, I was looking forward to it and that's the year they stopped.

MN: How come they stopped them?

Mrs. JQ: They didn't have any money. They were already going in the hole.

Mr. JQ: Going in the holes.

Mrs. JQ: And like this, they used to go, they used to get these books, you know, was all the names and how many years they, well, uh, yours was here when you started to work.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, somewhere there.

Mrs. JQ: What did I say? I looked in it.

Mr. JQ: Thirty.

Mrs. JQ: In '37?

Mr. JQ: '32, I guess it was. '32 or something.

Mrs. JQ: In '32? Yeah, we were looking.

Mr. JQ: Or '31, '31 or '32, I don't know when it was. But, I had three years that I worked some, somewhere else. I was out of there. But, I got them all back, because I always came back. See, that's how they give it back to me.

MN: Did they have a lot of father/son or mother/daughter teams at the company?

Mr. JQ: What?

MN: Would kid, would men or women get their children in to work at the company?

Mrs. JQ: No, no, there wasn't too many mother, father and son or mother and daughter.

Mr. JQ: No, no, no, no. Well, we had a grandson working there.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. I don't think so, because uh there wasn't that much uh money in it. There was no good work. The only were, ones that I know, like the father worked in uh, that Pasco, you know, he worked in the and his two daughters worked in the office.

Mr. JQ: Yeah. In the office, yeah.

Mrs. JQ: But, uh none of them worked in the factory.

MN: Did you ever think about moving to the office?

Mrs. JQ: No education. How could you hope (chuckling), yeah. You know, you have to have like typewriting or something like that. But, I often was sorry that I stayed there so long. I should'a quit and went to, well, either Simplex or Digital. But I was so afraid, I said, "Oow their so good here," and some of my friends quit and they went to Simplex.

Mr. JQ: She was always so, always afraid to call someone and ask for a job, you know. She used to.

Mrs. JQ: No, but, they went to Simplex and uh they worked there 10 years and their getting a pretty good pension. I would'a been in the same, the same boat, but.

Mr. JQ: Her fa, her family got her a job and she was happy after that.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but I used to say, "I'm going to quit. I'm going to go look at Simplex." He says, "You got a good job. Stay there."

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, well, you, you were threatening me and that's all.

Mrs. JQ: Naw. But you, you.

Mr. JQ: You, You wouldn't quit, though.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but, you didn't, you should'a said, "Well, why don't you go. It'd probably be better." But, he, he'd say, "Well, you got a good job."

Mr. JQ: Well, I didn't want to go two places. And, and this way just one place with the car.

Mrs. JQ: But he should'a talked me into it, he says, "Yeah, why don't you go. And, it's cleaner there and."

MN: Did you feel loyal to the company?

Mr. JQ: What?

MN: Loyal. Did you feel loyal to the company?

Mr. JQ: Well, yeah, I always try to do my best work, you know. And try to keep away from trouble, you know. I Didn't cause any problems, anyway, there. Try not to, anyways, see.

MN: How did you feel when it closed?

Mrs. JQ: He wasn't working there.

Mr. JQ: Well, I was 68 and I was ready to retire.

MN: Yeah, but.

Mrs. JQ: You had retired already.

MN: Even you were retired, you still must have felt something, anyway.

Mr. JQ: Oh, oh, when I retired, it was, only lasted another year. She retired in '88.

Mrs. JQ: Well, he felt bad. He was saying, "Gee, too bad it didn't last longer so you'd be 65 then get your full pension."

Mr. JQ: I was going to, I was going to wait till, I was going to stay probably to 70 years old, I could see it coming, you know, so. So I asked John Heywood about it and eh.

Mrs. JQ: Well, it was bad for those that were like 57, 58. They had a hard time getting a job, but uh, the younger ones they took them right up.

Mr. JQ: I collected good raises on my social security there, you know, for four or five years, 15%, 16% and everything. I got a good uh social security. My pension isn't eh nothing to brag about, but I get a good social security.

Mrs. JQ: Then, when he retired they gave him a, a \$1000 policy paid up, it's supposed to be paid up policy. And, after they closed up we got a letter from the union, it says, If you want to keep that insurance you have pay uh, oh I forgot what they said. So I was kind of upset (Mr. JQ interrupting), so I took that letter.

Mr. JQ: She was the one that always (.....unintelligible).

Mrs. JQ: No, I took that letter and I went to the union hall and I says, "Well, when he had retired they gave him that and they said it was paid up." "Well," he said, "Paid up, but the company's gone so who's going to pay it." And he said, "If he wants to keep it, you know, the older you are the higher the rate is," so we both quit it. We probably paid that \$1000 often.

Mr. JQ: Probably, Greenwood took it, maybe.

MN: Did, you know, when they had the parties, when would those be, like birthday parties or Christmas.

Mrs. JQ: No, no birthday parties. It would be Christmas party or Valentine party.

MN: Organized by the company? Or just people?

Mrs. JQ: Oh, the social club, not the company. It was the social club.

Mr. JQ: The company never made no parties. It's just the social club that did.

Mrs. JQ: Oow, the company, the only party the company made was the, the honor roll employees.

Mr. JQ: The honor roll.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. But, uh all the other parties, the social club. But we didn't go for nothing, we had to pay. But, you know, we wouldn't have to pay the full price, I mean, they, they'd put something in it, too.

MN: Did you have to pay dues to be a member of the social club?

Mrs. JQ: Yes.

Mr. JQ: Definitely paid.

MN: Did you belong?

Mrs. JQ: Yuh, we both belonged.

Mr. JQ: We took uh Andy, our son, there to uh quite a few parties they used to have.

Mrs. JQ: And it was nice. Like, when he uh, when they had the shop news, every year at Christmas time he would take pictures, so I had, I have a picture of my son, when he was just born, he was born in January, so he was a little baby up to, I think it was eight years old. So I got a picture of every year. I didn't have to go to the photographers. So they took it. That was nice. And, then they had like a Christmas party, there was an uptown theater, it's gone now. So, um, of course, parents had to take em. So I used to take him to the parties all the time and then they'd have fathers night, so he'd take his son, and then uh he'd have uh mothers and daughters, cause I didn't have any, so I used to go alone and then, when uh my son got married, I used to take my daughter-in-law. So it was nice.

MN: What about the corn roasts?

Mrs. JQ: Corn roast. Anybody could go, as along as they paid. They used to have it at the fish and gun club. And, people you would look forward to going, they used to have good times, the corn and hot dogs and uh.

Mr. JQ: What's that, corn roast?

Mrs. JQ: Corn roast.

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, yeah. They was.

Mrs. JQ: A nice show and uh.

Mr. JQ: You could gobble them up like nobody's business. Get as many as you wanted.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, and they, they never ran out of food, either. No, it was, they were good.

MN: And did you read the shop news?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, we used to get em every uh.

Mr. JQ: Show her some old shop news.

Mrs. JQ: We used to get em or every.

Mr. JQ: She's got a lot of em upstairs.

Mrs. JQ: I got a lot up, I brought some down when I.

MN: Were there certain parts of it you liked, that you would always read first? Do you remember?

Mrs. JQ: Well, you know, if uh, if somebody would get married or if somebody'd get engaged. They'd always put it in the paper.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

Mrs. JQ: This one here, I haven't uh, get right, (Mr. JQ interrupting) this is that Russell Pelletier.

Mr. JQ: She's got copies of em upstairs in the attic.

Mrs. JQ: He, you, he was at the meeting, you remember him?

MN: Oh, yeah... Russ Pelletier, the most exacting putter and greens cleaner in the league, must be the golf league.

Mrs. JQ: Golfing, yeah.

MN: Is shown with the dustpan and brush given to him as a special award to make his vacuuming work a little easier next year. And this is October 29, 1965.

Mrs. JQ: See, there's Red Riley, he was uh bigshot there. Did you see him?

Mr. JQ: He was a.

MN: I interviewed him.

Mrs. JQ: Oh, you did. And this, he was a assistant super. He died. John Sundavon. I don't know if Leonard Yakovinch, he must be there, because he used to be a.

MN: Would you ever read the comp, the president's message?

Mrs. JQ: Yes, I always used to read that. Company, company message, yeah.

MN: Do you remember if you used to agree with him or disagree or?

Mrs. JQ: Well, sometimes, you know, um see, we'd say, "Aaw, he's lying here." Did you uh, this guy he was a kind of big wheel there, did you uh interview him?

Mr. JQ: He was on my bowling team, wasn't he.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, Diamond, Harry Diamond.

MN: Oh, I meant to. Uh, they never reported any union news, though, did they? In the paper.

Mrs. JQ: The union dues?

MN: No, union news. In the shop news.

Mr. JQ: No, no.

Mrs. JQ: No, they never put that in.

MN: And they, they didn't seem to put much if there was any controversy in the plant.

Mr. JQ: Oh, they didn't put nothing about the union. The union was all by itself and that was it.

MN: Did you get a union newspaper?

Mrs. JQ: No.

Mr. JQ: No.

MN: So if something was happening, like if that, that, that walk out in the sanding department or something else?

Mr. JQ: It'd never be in there.

Mrs. JQ: Oh, it was in the new, it was in here.

MN: It was?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, yeah. I didn't see uh Leonard's picture here, see, like they'd have weddings, they'd put em in, or if somebody was uh they had a baby

they'd put in, they'd announce it. And then, when they made new furniture, they used to put it in. See, this is all new stuff.

Mr. JQ: Some of my samples are in there probably, too, you know, that I made up.

MN: Did you ever submit a suggestion and get an award?

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, I had to do a lot of suggestions, and sometimes, (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: No, but, you never got an award.

Mr. JQ: I'd change it sometimes, it was for the good, too, you know, see. Because I knew all about it, more, more than uh Joe Carr did, you know, see. Shop talk. I used to like that, cause it used to go faster, that's why I was there.

Mrs. JQ: And, there's John Heywood, back at the Cape. There's Joe Carr. I was trying to see if that Leonard Yakovinch was here, but I don't see him.

MN: And what about the idea that some people were skilled or were craftsmen? Did felt, were some people craftsmen and other people just workers?

Mrs. JQ: Plain workers.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: How would, who in the craftsmen who, I mean what kind of jobs?

Mr. JQ: All the craftsmen were in the experimental room. And all the workers were in the shop. They'd specialize in their metal work or wood work, upholstery work. They'd specialize in that, see. And the rest was just uh workers.

Mrs. JQ: And, see this was uh the Halloween party and they'd go dressed up.

MN: Did you go?

Mrs. JQ: I, we used to go, but we never dressed.

Mr. JQ: There's some of the furniture that uh I made, too.

Mrs. JQ: See, this uh like these chairs. He'd have to make that cushion and back.

Mr. JQ: Oh, go on the back there, there's some furniture that I made at, that there I made it.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, see all these uh (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: Some of that stuff.

Mrs. JQ: That, that, that's his line of work, all these uh.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: How did the styles change over time?

Mr. JQ: Well, they'd see it in stores. Joe Carr used to go around here and there and Frank Parrish used to go here and there, look around at stores, you know, see the changes and, and they used to get together talk it over then they used to come see me about it, you know. So they made a new different sketch, so I had to follow the sketch that they made for me. He was a good sketcher, too, he used to do it pretty good.

MN: And the people in the plant, the ones that were workers, like Mrs. JQ, did you think of yourself as skilled?

Mrs. JQ: No, I was just an ordinary uh a laborer, that's all.

Mr. JQ: Well, I was just a laborer, eh, eh I had to work to, you know.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but you had a like upholstering that was a skill. Everybody, you can, you just couldn't get anybody off of the street to do it.

Mr. JQ: Oh, no, I mean but what the heck I mean.

Mrs. JQ: How many people tried it and they couldn't do it.

Mr. JQ: Well, there's some tried it and they couldn't make it, so.

Mrs. JQ: You know, they were short of upholsterers. (Mr. and Mrs. JQ both speaking at the same time, confusing.)

Mr. JQ: They couldn't, they couldn't hold the tacks in their mouth either.

Mrs. JQ: Why especially during the war, especially during the war.

Mr. JQ: They couldn't hold tacks, if you can't hold your tacks in your mouth you're no good. Not fast enough.

Mrs. JQ: No, but especially during the war they couldn't get any help for it, everybody wanted to go on defense. So they'd teach them, and how many came and they just didn't get far. They didn't want to keep tacks in their mouth for one sh, for one thing. And, they uh, it's kind of hard to.

Mr. JQ: Well, once you get used to it, you don't mind it at all. It's all automatic, fast just like that, you know.

MN: But you had to teach them to put the tacks in their mouth?

Mr. JQ: Well, I didn't have to teach em that. They, they tried it and, and they just couldn't do it, you know, so.

MN: So if they wouldn't put tacks in their mouth, then?

Mr. JQ: What's that?

MN: If they couldn't keep the tacks in their mouth, then they couldn't.

Mr. JQ: Well, I got the idea they couldn't twist them around so their heads come out first. See to tack on, to catch the hammer, the magnet, see, you have to twist your lips around and still make the tacks come out.

Mrs. JQ: This is Richard Greenwood... He was in our, when he was leaving he came to the factory, shook everybody's hand and said goodbye and, and he was wishing them a (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: That's the only time he ever came, too.

Mrs. JQ: The place would be going good, so.

Mr. JQ: You never seen him half the time, just somewheres, somewhere around, but he didn't, he didn't do no handshaking at all. Sterns was a good guy, though, Bill Sterns.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, Bill Stern, but he's dead.

MN: But you remember Greenwood coming through at the end Mrs. JQ?

Mrs. JQ: Yes. Aaw, uh not when they closed up, when he was leaving, yeah.

He came and while he came, shook hands with everybody, yeah.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, then when he was working, very seldom see him.

Mrs. JQ: I think he like, I think he came with his son there. Because his son knew everybody's name and he'd uh, you know, mention the name and uh so. We just says, "Well, goodbye," and then wish him the best of health and luck and said thank you and he kept going.

MN: Why did he quit?

Mrs. JQ: Well, I think he was already old enough and he didn't want to have anything to do, so he went to the Cape.

Mr. JQ: Somebody says he took a lot of money out of the company, I don't know. That's what the rumors (Mrs. JQ interrupting), but I, I don't know, I tend to believe it, though.

Mrs. JQ: I think he did, I think he did.

Mr. JQ: Cause he's the one that really started it, you know. But, I don't know if it was him or not, I don't know, see. I can't say. See, but the rumors were there, though.

MN: And what about when, one of the shop news I read it, along the conveyor they used to put a picture of the finished chair, cause say somebody was making a spindle on the chair all day, well they wouldn't have a feeling that they were making a whole chair, so they'd send this picture along so people thought oh, yeah, I'm really making this chair, not just a spindle. Do you know what I mean? Like, I wonder what people thought when they were making one small piece to the chair. You saw the whole thing put together.

Mrs. JQ: Whole thing, yeah.

Mr. JQ: Well, when she got it it was a finished product almost, you know, see.

Mrs. JQ: And when I was uh.

Mr. JQ: It goes in the packing room after she got done, see.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but when I was sanding school furniture, it wasn't all set, it was just a back, a seat, or uh the desk, but then uh they had metal things still, it wasn't all wood, it was. But I knew what it looked like after it was done. But then they had, when it was the wood, it was good, we uh we could sand it and every, then they went to plastic and when it was plastic our jobs all went, too. Because there's nothing to do with plastic, all they had to do was assemble it. Yeah.

MN: Oh, were you there when it went to plastics?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. So we, that's when we were uh well a lot of us got laid off from school furniture, and then we had to go back on furniture.

Mr. JQ: Oh, it was too late for everything. Soft wood furniture, it was too late too, everybody's making it.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. JQ: So just everything fell apart afterwards.

MN: They had a lot of inventions, though, when you were there, didn't they?

Mr. JQ: Had what?

MN: Have a lot of inventions. Like didn't they come out with the Heywoodite at one point?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, they had a lot of new pieces there, but they never went through to, to put in production. Somebody bought it, probably took em and they probably produced it themselves.

MN: Would they get new machines all the time?

Mr. JQ: Well, no, they had a lot of old machines. That's where they caused a lot of problems, too, you know.

Mrs. JQ: This is the only thing that I got for nothing when they uh, see this is what I mean, the plastic.

MN: This is uh, uh Heywood...

Mrs. JQ: Chair.

MN: School chair.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. And then they had desks, too, you know, with that and this scroll. And this was all dirty and everything when they were closing up, so I asked my boss, I said, "Gee," uh, different ones were grabbing all different things and I said, "Can I have this chair?" "Gee," he says, "What do you want that chair for?" It's so dirty and everything. Well, I say, "I want to have a souvenir of Heywoods." He almost didn't want to give it to me, but he said, "Well, okay, take it." And I cleaned it and it's all right, so I keep it on the porch.

MN: And people were taking things?

Mrs. JQ: Ooh, they were taking whatever they could get their hands on.

MN: Finished furniture?

Mr. JQ: Yes, there was a lot of stolen stuff towards the end.

Mrs. JQ: I think there was a lot of stolen stuff, too.

Mr. JQ: Some people used to take parts of chairs home in their, in their, hidden somewhere and then they'd assemble it at home. That's what was happening their, too.

MN: Just at the end or always?

Mrs. JQ: Always uh. It happens anywhere (chuckles) not only there.

Mr. JQ: They'd pick up a seat, the seat is all could only see, but they had the legs and everything probably at home already. Yeah, that's what was happening towards the end. Everyone was grabbing like, like nobody's see.

Mrs. JQ: Like steel wool. Well, uh, I took a little bit of steel wool. Sometimes I needed it, I'd take a little piece home, so I, some probably took more, but uh you can't take stuff and have the company run. But one does it and the other one sees it and they do the same thing.

MN: Yeah, somebody actually told me that he had, knew someone who backed a truck up and was trying to take a whole dining room set.

Mr. JQ: Probably so, I don't know (laughing), could be.

Mrs. JQ: Well, if you knew the truck drivers, they probably could.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

Mrs. JQ: They don't know if its going to be shipped out somewhere or uh somebody bought it.

MN: When, do you know when they moved to the plastic on the school furniture?

Mrs. JQ: I don't remember that.

Mr. JQ: I don't know.

Mrs. JQ: It was all wood first, but, but that's stronger, you know. Wood cracks and kids write on it, and this is pretty rugged.

MN: And, so then they laid you off after that?

Mrs. JQ: Well, they didn't, they put us back on furniture, you know. Well, they made some, but uh they didn't need all that help. But when they had school furniture, they were running the place here and then uh they were doing some on West Broadway. What is it, a store now there? When you uh, you know where you go down uh, down the bridge, then you take your first right, there's a factory there.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

Mrs. JQ: Well, they used to bring us up there to work on school furniture.

The company, you know. Well, I used to have to burn in so they'd uh they'd get a lot ready and I'd have to go there for the whole day. But the company would bring me and then they'd bring me back. That school furniture was big. But when that stuff came, it hurt all of us. Nothing for the women to do, but for the men to assemble it, so I went, that's when I start going back on furniture and I start to burning in.

Mr. JQ: They had a lot of work in this tubing work, you know, you'd have tubing. They had good work and they made good money there, and they were making money on it, and for some reason they, they sold it to somebody else. The whole tubing job.

MN: And they were doing the tubing in Gardner?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, they were doing the tubing in Gardner. All, all that bending and everything there, and they, well, that was towards more, you know.

Mrs. JQ: No, but everything that was going good, they'd send it out. Like car seats, the car seats were doing so good in Gardner and when, they send it to Binormany, huh.

Mr. JQ: No, to Tennessee, well, to Binormany, first.

Mrs. JQ: No, no, to Binormany. Yeah.

Mr. JQ: And then they...

Mrs. JQ: And then to Tennessee.

Mr. JQ: Sent the bus seats to Tennessee. They sent me there to, to.

Mrs. JQ: To Tennessee. And then like school furniture started going good and they sent that somewhere. Where did they send that?

Mr. JQ: Oh, I don't know.

Mrs. JQ: I don't know where they sent it, but everything that was going good here, they shipped it out and then it was done.

Mr. JQ: Uh, who matters when, that's what I say.

Mrs. JQ: But if they kept it in Gardner, they'd probably still be working.

Mr. JQ: I don't know.

Mrs. JQ: Cause they had plenty of help.

Mr. JQ: Well, that Florence Stove didn't help Heywoods any either, you know. Florence Stove used to pay good money. A lot of them went to Florence Stove to work.

Mrs. JQ: They wanted to compete, but you can't compete with wood and metal. Because they were making stoves there.

MN: So people would leave Heywoods and go to Florence Stove?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, some women quit Heywoods and went to Florence Stove to work, when they were hiring.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but it was hard to get a job there.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, but a lot of them got jobs there.

Mrs. JQ: You had to know somebody to get in there.

MN: Did you have to know somebody to get in Heywoods?

Mrs. JQ: At one time, but then towards the end anybody could'a got in. They got all kinds of trash in there. But then, like when I was looking for a job it was hard to get in there, then. You had to know somebody, but after that, we had all kinds of retards and everything.

Mr. JQ: Towards the end they were desperate for help.

Mrs. JQ: They couldn't get anybody. They couldn't get anybody. Nobody wanted to work for nothing. Oh, it didn't pay that big money there. If you had a trade, you made something, but if you didn't, you didn't make nothing.

MN: Did someone have to teach you the burning in?

Mrs. JQ: Yes. But I, my girlfriend, she used to burn in, she says, "Why don't you learn." So I used to go up her house sometimes, you know, and when she'd teach me, she'd tell me what to do, then when I was burning in I got uh they put me on there, so I'd work close to her, she'd help me out and so she was good to me. Well, I paid her back for it, anyway.

MN: So you would have to know it already before they would let you do it?

Mrs. JQ: Before you, yeah. And then like there was an opening one time this uh, well, I knew he wanted this other girl to get it because she knew, she could do it better than I did, cause she worked on it longer, but I had more seniority than her. So you know what he did, there was another girl, he made

three of us come and take a test. Yeah, one day he called us and uh he, he had a board and he scratched it out and he says, "I want you to burn that in and touch it up," and so, of course, I was kind of nervous, you know. I wanted to do a good job. So I was working on it, working, he came and he looked at it and he says, "Uh, well, it doesn't look too bad," he says, "You know what you're doing, but," he says, "You know we need somebody right away." And he says, "You know, Dot's been at it for a long time." I said, "I told you you could have her. I didn't even want to take the test." "Well," he says, "We had to do it accord, for the union, so there wouldn't be." He says, "I know you wouldn't say anything." And I was sanding, so I'd rather stay there than, cause I know he wanted that girl on there, so let em stay.

MN: Then how did you get into burning in in the end?

Mrs. JQ: When they were hard up, he asked me to come. I shoulda said, "Have her do it." But she was working on it, but they needed some more. So he said, "'Mrs. JQ', there's your chance." Well, I says, "Okay."

Mr. JQ: She used to burn in pretty good, too. They used to like her burning in.

Mrs. JQ: So I went.

Mr. JQ: She'd do a better job than some other women used to do.

Mrs. JQ: But, uh, you can tell when they want you and they want somebody else. And that other girl, she was made, too. She was cursing him. And he, and she said, "The piece of wood he gave us, the furniture would never come that bad." Because, you know, he took a knife and he, it was just on a piece, on a board, but he wanted to see what we were going to do with it. But, you know, we knew how to, what to do, but it takes time, you have to first burn it in and when you got it burned in you cut it, see you have to touch it up.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, you, you, you have to use all of the right shade and then when you put lacquer on, that changes it, too, you know. So you have to know what change there's going to be there.

Mrs. JQ: Well, we used to have these little spray guns, so you have to spray it. It takes long when it's a big hole. Well, he says, "You, well you know whats going, you know how to go about it, but," he says, "We need somebody with more experience." I says, "Well, I told you I didn't want to teach test," but if I wanted to stay there, I had to, so.

Mr. JQ: But she learned fast. After a while, she was one of the better ones there, cause she felt conscious of her work, you know.

END TAPE TWO, SIDE B

TAPE THREE, SIDE A

MN: So excited. What were you saying (.....unintelligible)?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, she uh she was good, so she retired and now they called her to Bentz. And she just turned 70 and she's gone to teach some other people there, you know, because they have nobody to do it, so they asked her to come. So I saw her the other day, I says, "Are you teaching somebody or are you doing the work?" "Well," she says, "I don't know. I get new, get new people every day. I," she said, "I think they want me to uh finish up what's there and then they'll probably lay me off." But she just works a few hours a day, she's trying to teach somebody.

Mr. JQ: You have to have good, good judgement for the shade and everything, you know, what to use. They got powders, you know, and they use those powders, they, they blend them with something else, you know.

Mrs. JQ: Well, you have different kind of powder you have to put a little darker and lighter, and then you have to take some sealer and you have to take the lacquer and mix it and then you touch it up nicely, and then you take your spray gun and then you spray it, and then when that dries good, you have to take your steel wool and rub it down. (Mr. JQ interrupting). To almost.

Mr. JQ: But, you, eh you can check it, you can check it if you put it on

there, it's not right they got to get a rag and wipe it off and uh till it comes right.

MN: With the color?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, the color, yeah.

MN: Why do they call it burning?

Mr. JQ: Burning in.

Mrs. JQ: I don't know. Well, it's, you work with a hot iron.

Mr. JQ: Hot iron, yeah. Electric.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah and then you have a like a lacquer stick, different colors you have to mix them to kind of match it. So I think different ones been asking me (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: Colors, they come in different shades, those lacquer sticks.

Mrs. JQ: You know, different ones have asked me to come and like if there's a little hole, I'll go and I'll fix it for them, you know.

MN: Companies or people?

Mrs. JQ: No, people. Like my son and his friend had a, kids who had made a big hole right on the top of the table, so. You know, you fix it up and it looks like it's in the wood.

Mr. JQ: She still, she still got the eye.

Mrs. JQ: So (chuckles), so I go and I do it.

MN: Do you have the lacquer sticks?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, I have a few... Because I don't have the lacquer or anything, but my son wants me to do it, he gets it from uh, uh, what's that shop in Baldwinville?

Mr. JQ: Oh, the Stuarts.

Mrs. JQ: Stuarts. He gets me a little bottle of lacquer and some, it doesn't cost too much, cause you know that dries up after awhile. So if he wants it I say, "If you get me some lacquer and some thinner, I'll do it." That's all.

MN: And that's what you did until the end?

Mrs. JQ: Until the end.

MN: And can you tell me what that room looked like? Where you did the burning in. Was that the finishing room?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, it was in the finishing room. There was the conveyor was running there, and they'd throw it off and we'd be working up here, cause we'd have to put it back on the conveyor.

Mr. JQ: You worked on the inside of it, didn't they?

Mrs. JQ: No, this side.

Mr. JQ: Just on one side?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. But it was right in the paint shop. It was just a big room and conveyors in the middle and each one would work here. They tried to make us burn in on the conveyor, but we tried, we couldn't do it. Because, you know, its moving and you can't uh your hands moving and you can't put it in that hole.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, you got to take it and put it on the floor.

Mrs. JQ: They wanted to make everything on the conveyor. Cheaper.

Mr. JQ: How can you do anything when its moving. It's stupid.

Mrs. JQ: But, then uh they, they got all con, they, they had so much to burn in that they got a lot of girls and the son didn't care. You know, they thought if they put out the work, it would be uh oh they're good. But what good is it when they send it out and then the store sends it back, they're not satisfied with it. Put a big lump on it, it looks like a piece of gum in there stuck, that's, that's. But, you know, everybody always took the little ones, like a little scratch, that was easy to do, sometimes you wouldn't even have to burn it in, you just touch it up and you couldn't see it, you put some lacquer on it. Ooh, towards the end everybody was fighting for the easy parts (laughs).

MN: Could you choose which ones you would do?

Mrs. JQ: Well, it, it was all there. When you finish one, you can go take another one. So if (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: When you put a lacquer on there, that seals it.

Mrs. JQ: We, we starts, so we started to argue and everything, so then the uh boss told the inspector, he says, "You divide the work, give them the good and the bad. And bring each one their work, don't let them pick it out." So that's the way it was towards the end.

MN: But it wasn't piecework, was it?

Mrs. JQ: No, you couldn't do that piecework, cause some pieces take long as, sometimes you have to work on one, I mean, you have to set it aside and then work on something else and then keep going to that one and, you know, keep touching it up, touching it up until you, you have to build it up so it'd be -smooth and even. But, uh.

MN: How did you tell them that it wouldn't work on the conveyor? Did the women just tell the foreman?

Mrs. JQ: Well, we told em. We said, "We can't burn in." (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: It moved and you gotta move with it.

Mrs. JQ: And we, we'd, we'd be way on the end and it still wouldn't be done. But, like maybe if you had to just touch up the edge, you know, sometime when the girls sand they go too near the edge and its white, so that you could do on the conveyor, cause all you have to do is mix your color and then just go over it with a brush. (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: But, but, burning in a hole, you couldn't do it.

Mrs. JQ: So that's all right. So uh the touching up they did it on the conveyor, but uh the burning in you couldn't.

MN: Did you have a man boss or a woman?

Mrs. JQ: A man. There was not women bosses there. There was no women bosses in Heywoods.

Mr. JQ: Not that I know of, no, no. Oh, yeah, yeah, that uh what was the name of that old lady that used to be in the cutting room there? Oh, she was (...unintelligible). She was old then, she was a boss there, but I forgot her name, yeah.

Mrs. JQ: I don't remember her. I don't.

Mr. JQ: White haired and, I can't think of her name.

Mrs. JQ: From Templeton?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, I think she lived in Templeton.

Mrs. JQ: Oh, I don't remember any woman.

Mr. JQ: I can't think of her name, though. It was way back, though, see.

Mrs. JQ: All the bosses I had there were wo, were men.

Mr. JQ: She was the boss of the, before Joe Bishop was there.

MN: Why didn't they have any women bosses?

Mrs. JQ: In a paint shop, it'd be kind of hard, I guess. She wouldn't know that much. You know, finishing and everything.

Mr. JQ: They didn't want to get their hands dirty. They didn't want to get their hands dirty, that's why.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but in the finishing department, I don't think they could have. Or in the wood shop, sanding or working on uh saws and all that, I don't think the women would know anything about that.

Mr. JQ: She'd come home and she'd scrub her hands, you know, although sometimes she couldn't finish it in the shop there, so she finished it at home here.

MN: Who did?

Mr. JQ: Dirty hands from stains, you know, and everything.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, well, sometimes I used to have to stain, too. You know, when I used to sand and there was no sanding, so he put me on staining, boy, that was a dirty job. You know, you put it on white and you put the color on and then you have to wipe it with your, with the rag, and boy your hands and your fingernails, you can't even get it clean, you have to use bleaching water. That was a dirty job. Boy, when I, he told me to go help out on stain wiping, oh, I used to dread it. I said, "Oh, I feel like going home," to myself.

MN: Would you ever? Go home instead.

Mrs. JQ: Oh, no, cause I didn't have to do it that often, I figure, well, he doesn't put me here too often to help out.

MN: Did he know you didn't like it?

Mrs. JQ: Ooh, he knows not, none of the women liked it, no. This is dirty, you'd get your clothes, it doesn't even come off when you get it on your clothes. So they used to just change it and leave their clothes there.

Mr. JQ: You have a plastic apron.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but if you get it on your clothes, you can't get it off. Even bleach won't take it off.

MN: Were, were there people who always did the staining?

Mrs. JQ: Yes.

MN: They liked it?

Mrs. JQ: They didn't like it, but the money was pretty good. Cause, you know, the job was dirty so they paid bit, a little better.

Mr. JQ: They used to dip it in a whole big tank. They used to hang it up on a conveyor afterwards and it used to dry on the conveyor afterwards.

MN: So they'd have to hold it with their hands? To dip it in.

Mr. JQ: Well, with rubber gloves. Rubber gloves.

Mrs. JQ: They never dipped uh, they used to spray the stain (Mr. JQ interrupting) and there were, then they used to have to wipe it. Ooh, not the furniture.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, but they used to dip, too. Because I used to have to. My brother used to dip down to Ramsals.

Mrs. JQ: Well, I don't know Ramsals, but Heywoods the guy used to spray it and then uh well, there was men and women wiping it and then you have to wipe it. And, there that was piecework, so a lot of them would have a rag in each hand and they'd be wiping it. And you, you have to wipe it kind of nice, because if you brush too hard in one place, it's going to be light and the other place is going to be dark. You have to know how to wipe it, too.

Mr. JQ: Down at Ramsals they used to dip it in a big tank and then they used to hold it for awhile until the stuff dripped and they'd have to put it on a conveyor.

Mrs. JQ: Maybe legs only, but not uh.

Mr. JQ: No, the whole chair. Used to do that.

Mrs. JQ: Ooh they didn't, up here they didn't. They used to, a guy used to spray it and then they used to wipe it.

Mr. JQ: Spray it takes time.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but they used to wipe it. Cause I know I used to have to wipe it and I, I didn't care for it.

MN: You had to wipe it when he put you on staining?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, well, the guy sprays it and then he throws it aside, and then you have to wipe it. And he's intending...

— Mr. JQ: Somebody just put on too much stain,=yeah, they had to wipe it.

Mrs. JQ: No, well, you have to wipe the whole thing.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

Mrs. JQ: And then go over the legs and everything, so it'll be uh just like sanding. Ooh, I used to hate sand chairs. Especially some that had a lot of spindles. There was one chair, I don't know what they called it, but they had oh, I don't know, a lot of the thin spindles and then in the back, they'd have

another two over there. Boy, was that hard to sand. You'd go in between, boy my fingers were all banged up.

Mr. JQ: They were almost raw (chuckling).

Mrs. JQ: And you'd get slivers in it. How many times you'd have to go to the nurse and get the slivers out.

MN: Did you ever have an accident?

Mrs. JQ: Well, the only accident I had was to burn myself with the burning in iron (chuckling), huh, but uh, you know, sometimes you're half asleep, instead of wiping it on the rag, you'd take it and wipe it on your hand. But, uh, I tried never to go to the nurse, cause, you know, that's kind of a red mark on you.

Mr. JQ: You do it a few times, then you learn.

Mrs. JQ: He understands.

MN: Learn?

Mr. JQ: Do it a few times, then you learn. How it burns.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, you'd get a blister (chuckles). No, the only time I'd go down is if I'd get a sliver, cause, you know, sometimes they go, especially when you get it in the fingernail, ooh. But, uh.

MN: Did you ever have an accident?

Mrs. JQ: No.

Mr. JQ: Not that I know of.

Mrs. JQ: No, no.

Mr. JQ: No.

MN: And would people have to put their name on the piece that they finished?

Mrs. JQ: Well, at first you didn't, but then there was, you know, when the bad piece would come back and uh nobody uh, well, everybody, I didn't do it, that's not my work, that's not my work. So then we each had to put our numbers on. Then he'd know who did the work, and then if it wasn't good,

you'd get it back and you'd have to fix it. But at first, nobody did, they just let it go through and somebody, if you didn't want anybody to know, you don't put the number on it, there's no number, they don't know who did it.

Mr. JQ: When I, when I used to make those samples there, then I used to eh try to teach the guys, the guys used to say, "I suppose you, you got all the shortcuts in there already, huh," (chuckling). I used to make two or three sometimes, you know, by my, by myself, but still.

Mrs. JQ: No, but that wasn't fair. He was uh, uh, a sample maker and they used to time him and, you know, he knew where everything goes, so the fellas used to say, "Hey, never mind timing him, time one of us." By right that's what it should've been.

Mr. JQ: But, but they never got a good timing there.

Mrs. JQ: And when they timed the fellas, ooh, they'd take ooh, quite a bit longer than what he would do.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, but that lowered the price.

Mrs. JQ: So they'd say, "Well, how come it takes him so, just so much and it takes you so long."

Mr. JQ: Yeah, but they should say, but they said it a few times, you know and.

Mrs. JQ: So they said, "Well, he did the first one, so he knows what to do."

Well, they said, "You did some too." But, uh, but they never took his price, — but they'd take the two and then they'd, I don't know what they'd do, but they'd give em a price. But, they uh I could never be timed. If they timed me, you know, I'd be so nervous.

Mr. JQ: It never bothered me.

Mrs. JQ: I would work so fast they wouldn't get anything. So I'll never forget this uh, well, he was a policeman and he used to joke with me all the time. He says, "Well, 'Mrs. JQ', I'm going to be timing you tomorrow." "Oh,"

I says, "You are. I, I don't think I'm coming in tomorrow." (Chuckles) But, uh he went, used to time this one women, geez, she was an older woman, she always gave him a good, you know, a good time so we were all satisfied, too. But, uh I couldn't be time, I'm too nervous.

MN: He knew you were going too fast?

Mrs. JQ: Well, I would be going too fast. You know, I, if he was standing there, I'd say to myself, "Gee I must be going slow," so I'd be working faster. But he never timed me, anyway.

Mr. JQ: She'd, she'd be all fingers, probably.

MN: And you didn't mind being timed?

Mr. JQ: Oh, I didn't mind it at all. It didn't bother me a bit. Then the guys used to tell me, "Why don't you start from the bottom." I said, "No, you got to start the arm from the top." From the top was much faster than from the bottom.

MN: Did the other guys try to get you to go slower?

Mr. JQ: Well, some of them used, used to tell me, you know, but I says, Well, I just went natural with it, you know, the way your supposed to go. I'm never in a rush. But on top makes the right moves, you know, see. They start one place and then they start another place, I go right through it in no time, you know. Get the shape of it and then, then I'd just finish it afterwards.

Mrs. JQ: No, but when they timed some, you know, they, they know how to do it. They just stand in one place and they go around. But, like if it was me, I'd be, I'd be sanding one and then I'd touch it and if it wasn't smooth, I'd probably go over it again, but you just go over it once and but, once you got the price and nobody's there, well, you go pretty fast (chuckling). I can work fast when nobody's watching. When they're watching me, I, but uh.

Mr. JQ: There was a lot of times they, they, they can say I didn't do it,

you know. It's up to you now to do it the right way, but they do it the wrong way, so it takes longer.

MN: Did the time study man know they were doing it the wrong way?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but he'd never take their time.

Mr. JQ: Well, um, they could tell by the time. They, they, they uh, I made it probably in an uh, maybe an hour, an hour ten minutes, and they probably take an hour and a half, an hour forty-five minutes to do the same thing, you know.

MN: Oh, and he'd stand there for that whole hour and a half or whatever?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, well, until you're finished that part that they're, they're timing.

Mr. JQ: That's nothing, that's the whole chair, you know, see. I start up with the platform, then the arms, and then the back. See, and they, they want to do the arms first. You know, they're only in the way, the arms are afterwards when you do the platform, the bottom part. Once you put tacks in there, you gotta take them out.

Mrs. JQ: But, I used to watch him sometime, we used to watch him like when they're timing him, he's standing there and he takes a walk, he gets this cotton and you have to put that whole cotton on the seat and he picks up his hammer, and then he gets his nails. You know, he's not going to rush, but then uh we used to joke with, you know, we knew them pretty good. And they

said, "Gee, are you working fast now?" I says, "How come you didn't work so fast when he was timing you?" He says, "What do you think we are crazy?"

But, you know, they, they knew what we were talking about, too. But, then everything is right there and when it's not they have floor boys, you know, they bring all the stuff and they put it right near their place so they don't have to go after it. Because if they have to go after it, they used to get

made, they'd punch out and uh wait, so uh then this floor boy would bring everything and this.

Mr. JQ: Well, well the timer would press his timer, you know, stop it, you know, see, cause you had to go after something, then they should have it right there on the table where, where its ready.

Mrs. JQ: And when the floor boys bring their things they tell em, put this there, put that there, so it's handy for them just to take it and, than get up and.

MN: Would the guys keep the tacks in their mouths when they were being timed?

Mr. JQ: Well, some of them got used to it pretty good and some just couldn't do it.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

Mr. JQ: Some even swallowed some. But, they go through.

MN: (Chuckling) Did you?

Mr. JQ: Well, I su, I might have swallowed a few of them there, but not too many though. It didn't bother me, though. It used, they go through, they got mixed up with the food and they'd go through.

MN: And you know when you were doing the chairs, would you be able to talk to the lady next to you when you were sanding?

Mrs. JQ: Sure. Oh, we used to talk a lot, cause we were working like side-by-side, like she was uh she, her table was there and mine was on this side, so. But, you know, that, that woman that I was working with, she worked there longer than I did, so she knew which ones were paying more. Certain, like uh you get a smaller seat, it pays less, a bigger seat pays more. But, sometime the bigger seat is easier to sand, because they got a round uh it's round. So this woman she used to go, I used to watch her and she'd go and she'd bring that load to her place, and uh I said, "Gee, how come you're taking those big seats? Don't you like the little ones?" She didn't say

nothing. And finally, the sprayer, Harry Smith, he was from Athol, so he came to us one time, I guess he didn't like what she was doing, so she said, her name was MacInerney, but they used to call her Mac for short. He says, "Hey, Mac, why don't you uh split your work evenly? How come you're taking all the good ones and you're giving her all the bad ones?" So then he told me, he says, "You know, those pay more than thi, than this." So then I asked for the price list and the number of the seat and everything, so I got wise to her and I did the sam, well, I says, "Let's divide it. You take one and I'll take one." So then she was alright. So we got along pretty good. And she lived here on Dublin Street, so her and I used to walk home together and we worked till 5 so he'd come and pick us up sometime, so when he used to pick her up, he used to bring her way up to the house. She was quite a bit older than I was. So then she was nice, so she used to divide it evenly with me. But, you know, somebody had to tell her.

MN: So even you would've walked home together, she would've kept the good stuff for herself?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. Well, you know, everybody's for the money.

MN: So there was little bit of competition between people?

Mrs. JQ: Oh, oh, a lot of it, a lot of it. Its everybody's looking for themself, looking out for themselves.

MN: If you had a good friend, would they not compete with you? Or everybody competed?

Mrs. JQ: Oh, everybody. Especially if you're piecework. Daywork, well, it doesn't matter, but piecework everybody's there to make the money.

MN: But somebody told me if somebody made more than everybody else, the other people didn't like it. They would hide their tools or tell them, "Hey, that's too much."

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but uh they didn't pass again. I don't think they passed again, because it would spoil it for everybody. It'd spoil it for them, too.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, on my work I couldn't blab, I had a mouthful of tacks. I'm talking 50, 60 tacks in my mouth.

Mrs. JQ: Your mouth was big enough for it.

Mr. JQ: Yeah.

MN: So you couldn't talk to anybody all day.

Mr. JQ: Well, I tried to say something, but they couldn't understand me, you know. Oh, when I got a half a dozen in there, you could say something, you know. When you got 50, 60, 70 tacks in your mouth, you can't do much blabbing, you just have to keep working.

MN: Well, you could talk with just a few?

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, yeah. It didn't bother me.

MN: Did the guys make up hand signals since they couldn't talk?

Mr. JQ: Well, they (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: You, you can't, you gotta keep banging.

Mr. JQ: Yeah. So I told em wait until I got rid of the tacks. "Wait, wait, wait," I used to say, you know. That's all I can say.

Mrs. JQ: When my grandsons were small then they used to uh, he was upholstering their parlor set at their house and when they saw their grandfather putting those tacks in, they said, "Grandpa, aren't you afraid to swallow them?" "Well," he says, "You got to, you have to keep them in a certain part so you won't swallow them," and they used to watch him and uh he'd say, "You want to try," and they'd say, "No." But they couldn't get over it, you know, how.

Mr. JQ: Oh, I used to, I used to twist my tongue they used to come out auto, automatically, you know. I take one out, there'd be another one ready already, because I could feel the head.

MN: But you had the sharp part pointed in your mouth?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, yeah, that's right.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but that was fast, I used to watch him, he'd go, you know.

Mr. JQ: But some, some fellas out of, out of 42, I guess, maybe, maybe half a dozen that just couldn't do it.

Mrs. JQ: But then you're, then, then didn't they go to the staple gun after?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, well, they went to the staple gun, but it, that didn't work half as good.

Mrs. JQ: Oh, I, towards the end that's what they were doing.

Mr. JQ: No.

Mrs. JQ: They used to put that uh, uh tan what, what'd they call it.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, yeah, they used to have, they used to do it on the outside on that strip they used to put.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, I used to watch em and they'd, they'd fill that gun (Mr. JQ interrupting).

Mr. JQ: No, no it wasn't like this.

Mrs. JQ: It was an electric staple gun and boy, how quick they used to do it and it was better than tacks.

Mr. JQ: It was just like, but you can't do everything with a stapler gun. Because that was all straight going, you know, see, with a, with a piece of strip of tape, cardboard.

— Mrs. JQ: Yeah, they'd put it on there and, and that electric stapler, they'd just.

Mr. JQ: No, it was mostly for casing, women done it usually.

Mrs. JQ: No, I saw the guys doing a few.

Mr. JQ: There was a few places there where they could do it.

Mrs. JQ: When Joe Bluejay was working there, we used to watch him.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, I know, but he, he couldn't do it everywhere, no.

MN: You'd still have to use nails in some places?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, yeah.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, but not as much, they wouldn't have to keep it in their mouth because the sta, it was a power stapler, or electric. Was, was it electric or?

Mr. JQ: Oh, that was just a regular, it wasn't electric, you know, it just snapped.

Mrs. JQ: No, no, it was like, it was hooked on.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, there was air, air, that's what it was, air.

MN: Did you get new kinds of tools? Would they give, come out with new or?

Mrs. JQ: Oh, any tools they want they had to buy their own.

MN: Always?

Mr. JQ: Yeah, always have to buy your own tools.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

Mr. JQ: When they hired an upholsterer, he's supposed to have tools, then. they're not going to furnish it. Like me, when I went downstairs and my, my cousin was showing me, I was using his tools. See and after a couple of months or so I went down.

Mrs. JQ: Well, they probably give you some, but they don't give you the best and if you want something a little better, you know, you buy your own. Like he brought all his home that he bought.

MN: And did you have to buy your own tools?

Mrs. JQ: No, they gave us theirs. It was, all we needed was a iron. It was a iron with a like a blade about that big and about that long and it was square and it had to be square, cause of when you burn in.

Mr. JQ: They nave to do a little bending there, too, wasn't there.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, well, when you wanted to spread it out.

MN: Did you make friends with any of the people from work?

Mrs. JQ: Why everybody I worked with I was.

MN: That you stayed friends with.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah. A lot of them are dying, died now. So there's still this Vicky, I was pretty good friends with her. And some got married and they moved away or some are old and sick now. Well, I am old, too, but they're sick and they can't, you know, go out. But like this Melitta, she's still good, we bowl together every tuesday and friday. And, her husband's pretty bad, too.

MN: And did you also, 'Mr. JQ', make friends with the guys? Would you see them outside of work?

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, he's got. You made friends.

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, yeah. What friends, who?

Mrs. JQ: From the shop, like Freddy and uh that uh Joe Laprise and uh, yeah, he got a lot of friends.

Mr. JQ: Yeah. They all talk to me, you know. I was good to em, anyways.

Mrs. JQ: Like now he goes to the pool room, to the Golden Age and there's quite a few that worked at Heywoods, so they play pool together and like when we have uh a Christmas party or Halloween party or something, the Golden Agers, we all get together and sometimes we talk about the good ole times at Heywoods.

Mr. JQ: We used to have good parties there, too.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah.

— Mr. JQ: We are, we used to call ourselves (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, the Hobos.

Mr. JQ: The Hobos. There was about (Mrs. JQ interrupting).

Mrs. JQ: A bunch of about 8 couples.

Mr. JQ: Eight couples.

Mrs. JQ: And we all worked in Heywoods, so every month we'd uh gather in a different house. You know, one month it would be at my house and we'd play

cards and we'd have a little lunch and then when we'd have a big party, like Halloween or something, we'd rent a little hall and we'd get there. We used to have good times, but almost all of them are gone. Either one or the other, you know.

Mr. JQ: Well, there's uh , there's a couple of them that uh stay for a party not too long, an hour and their all done.

Mrs. JQ: So, when one is left, the other one doesn't want to go.

MN: Why'd you call yourselves the Hobos?

Mrs. JQ: Well.

Mr. JQ: Well, we used to dress up that way.

Mrs. JQ: Naw.

Mr. JQ: Yeah, we used to dress up in all older clothes and that.

Mrs. JQ: I don't think I don't know why they gave us that name.

Mr. JQ: Not everyone.

Mrs. JQ: I don't know. Well, hobo, no why did they give the name of Hobo Club?

Mr. JQ: Well, because we used to dress up like a bum once in awhile.

Mrs. JQ: No, well, for Halloween, but otherwise we didn't.

Mr. JQ: No, but they still, still called us hobos.

Mrs. JQ: I don't know, I don't know who gave that name.

Mr. JQ: On account of Halloween. On account of, well, Joe Laprise and Angie. That's who they were... He's always talking about it even now. He was talking about it this morning. We were talking about the parties.

Mrs. JQ: Yeah, well, his wife is gone. They, it was a nice couple, but his wife died and he's left alone.

MN: If uh Heywoods had stayed open, would you have wanted your son to work there?

Mr. JQ: No.

Mrs. JQ: He wouldn't. There was nothing, there'd be nothing there for him. There's nothing there. No, in a furniture shop there's not that much to do. And no, no pay, no good paying job.

Mr. JQ: He works for Shepherds in Leominster and makes good money, too. Drives a truck.

Mrs. JQ: Well, we only had that one and we wanted him to go to sch, uh college.

Mr. JQ: School, yeah.

Mrs. JQ: But he didn't want to. And he was a good football player. He could'a got scholarships, you know.

Mr. JQ: He was a good football player, though. Scholarship for football, he was good.

Mrs. JQ: But, uh he got uh.

Mr. JQ: Thirty-six touchdowns in one year.

Mrs. JQ: No, but he got uh letters from different schools, you know, to go.

Mr. JQ: He showed some to us, the letters he'd have there, 12 of them (.....unintelligible).

Mrs. JQ: I don't know where they are.

MN: But you didn't want him to go to Heywoods?

Mr. JQ: No, we wanted him to, to send him to college.

Mrs. JQ: To college. So he used to be an altar boy at the church here and he — was pretty friendly with this priest, and the priest used to take him all over and everything. So one time I went to see the priest and I said, I asked him, I said, "Will you talk to Henry and have him go, tell him to go to school. How important it is to get an education and everything." So he says, "I'll do that." So he, he went somewhere with him and he talked to him and everything, and my son told the priest, he says, "My folks can send me to college," he says, "They can spend all the money they want, I'll go, but I'm not better

off. They're going to spend their money for nothing." So he came and he told us, he says, "You know, Henry doesn't want to go to college." So he said, "Let him do what he wants."

Mr. JQ: Still got that writing there about Henry?

Mrs. JQ: I don't, put em away, I don't know, I think Gregg took it.

Mr. JQ: Gregg took it... Cripes, he weighed about 212, you know, and he was a fullback. He was making those touchdowns like nobody's business.

Mrs. JQ: So now he's working, he's making good money and my nephew went to college and he's working at uh Simplex and he's on computers, you know. So I'll tell him, I'll say, "Look it, when Lenny goes to work look at how nice he's dressed in a suit and everything, and look at you in these dungarees or whatever he wears." And he says, "I'd rather have my job any day." He says, "Uh Lenny, he has to bring his work home sometimes."

Mr. JQ: Oh, yeah, he does.

Mrs. JQ: "And I don't have to bring mine home. And I make more money than he does." So what are you going to do?

MN: And you didn't have to bring your work home either, did you?

Mrs. JQ: No.

Mr. JQ: No.

MN: Okay.

END TAPE THREE, SIDE A